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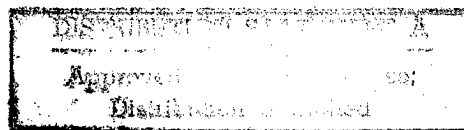
JPRS-UMA-84-049

19 July 1984

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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS



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19 July 1984

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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

COL GEN LIZICHEV DISCUSSES COMBAT READINESS

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 5, May 84 pp 13-16

[Article by Colonel-General A. Lizichev, member of Military Council-Chief of Political Administration, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "Combat Readiness, Our Main Concern"]

[Text]

EXACTLY a year from now, i.e., in May 1985 all progressive mankind will be marking the fortieth anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people over nazi Germany in the Great Patriotic War (1941-45). The farther the salvos of victory recede into the historical past, the more the peoples of the world realise the importance of the self-denying feat of the Soviet people and their Armed Forces. Guided by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, they heroically saved the socialist gains and world civilisation from the plague of fascism.

Among the numerous events that have taken place in the history of humanity the Soviet victory over the strike force of world imperialism — nazi Germany — continues to exercise a tremendous positive effect on the whole of international life.

The enemies of socialism, however, are unwilling to accept the new developments in the world. They have learnt nothing from the bloody lesson of the past. The ultra-reactionary circles of the monopoly bourgeoisie in the imperialist states, the USA above all, are obviously staking on resolving the historical dispute between socialism and capitalism through war. The imperialists are rattling their swords and shamelessly demonstrating their readiness to resort to force of arms at any moment. With the deployment of new US medium-range nuclear missiles on the European continent the threat of the outbreak of a nuclear war has increased immensely, though this war would spell the end of all life on the planet.

In the context of the mounting war danger the Communist Party and Soviet Government, proceeding from the interests of world peace and security, are compelled to build up the combat potential of the Armed Forces of the USSR. Speaking at the Extraordinary Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee on February 13, 1984 Konstantin U. Chernenko, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, emphasised: "We need no military superiority. We do not intend to dictate our will to others. But we will not permit the military equilibrium, that has been achieved, to be upset. And no one should have even the slightest doubt that we will further see to it that our country's defence capability be strengthened, that we should have enough means to cool the hot heads of militant adventurists." This is a manifestation of the Soviet people's firm will and steadfast determination effectively to respond to the policy of aggression and gambles the US Administration and NATO are pursuing, and reliably to ensure the security of the USSR and the whole of the socialist community.

Soviet servicemen are vigilantly safeguarding the great achievements of socialism and world peace.

RELIABLE OUTPOST

The Group of Soviet Forces in Germany is the advanced detachment of the Soviet Armed Forces. It stands face to face with NATO — the aggressive military grouping of imperialism on the European continent. The officers and men of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (GSFG) are charged with a responsible and honourable mission, namely that of serving as a reliable outpost of the USSR Armed Forces, of deterring the aggressive forces of imperialism and of defending, shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal armies of the Warsaw Treaty member countries, the gains of socialism. That is why the Military Council, the Political Administration of the GSFG, the commanders, political organs, the Party and Young Communist League organisations pay special attention to the maintenance of combat readiness of units and subunits at an adequate level.

Thanks to the concern displayed by the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet Government, we have all the necessary conditions and facilities for combat training, political education and life in general. The units are outfitted with the latest weaponry and combat equipment: modern operational-tactical complexes, tanks, infantry fighting

* Grigory Ivanovich Kotovsky (1881--1925) — hero of the Civil War (1918-20).

vehicles, salvo firing rocket artillery systems, all-weather supersonic aircraft, combat helicopters, and reliable communication and troop control facilities. The GSFG has good proving grounds, tankodromes, firing ranges, training fields and classrooms.

The units and subunits are engaged in intensive combat training, with special pains being taken to improve field training standards, and the effectiveness of every lesson, drill and exercise. The best results are secured by those commanders, staffs, political organs and Party organisations which purposefully and persistently display team-work in introducing scientific organisation of labour, develop a sense of personal responsibility and expedition in every serviceman and above all in every officer in carrying out training programmes and curricula. Among the best collectives is the Kotovsky* Guards Tank Proskurov-Berlin Tank Regiment.

Most of the men in the regiment are highly skilled in the operation of armoured fighting vehicles and are excellent marksmen, and show good performance in the maintenance of weapons and other combat equipment in proper order. Most of the crews have achieved complete interchangeability. The personnel have managed to keep up the training standards this year, too. The entire process of combat training and political education is imbued with the effort to achieve and maintain a high level of combat readiness. Every drill and exercise in the field are conducted in conditions which approach to the maximum degree those of actual combat. A spirit of healthy rivalry between the men is encouraged in every way. Summing up the results of socialist emulation, the commanders and political workers not only mention the advanced subunits and the names of the men who have distinguished themselves, but also reveal the secrets of their success. They also refer to those whose performance has not been up to the mark and analyse, in a business-like fashion, the causes of their failures. Their superiors give them advice and recommendations on how to remove the shortcomings.

Many other units have secured high indicators in all fields of combat training. The effectiveness and quality of field, air and special training have increased. Team-work in units and subunits has improved. Party-political work is exerting a more powerful influence on all aspects of life and activities in the forces.

A most convincing indicator of high combat readiness is the steady growth of the number of excellent units and subunits, of men who have top results in combat training and political edu-

cation, rated specialists who have mastered their trades to perfection. In the GSFG one serviceman in three has achieved excellent results in combat training and political education, one company in five is an excellent company, and six men out of ten are top-rated specialists.

HEADING FOR NEW SUCCESSES

In the current training year it is the men of the Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov and Order of the Red Banner Proskurov Motorised Infantry Regiment that have set the pace. Following the lead of the Kotovsky Tank Regiment, they have appealed to all the personnel of the Land Forces to start a socialist emulation movement with the motto: "To be on the alert and in constant readiness to safeguard the gains of socialism!" The call of the Proskurov Regiment to exhibit utmost vigilance, to heighten combat readiness, and strengthen organisation and discipline has reached the mind and heart of every man and has been embodied in concrete deeds in the line of service and combat training.

The Party organisation is a leading force of the regiment which has initiated this drive for higher proficiency. The Communists set a personal example to the others by exhibiting a conscientious and responsible approach to the execution of their duties. They have created in the collective an atmosphere of mutual confidence, of army comradeship. They have displayed a competent approach to the solution of serious questions bearing on combat readiness, enhancement of proficiency and strengthening of military discipline. They combine this effort with constant concern for the well-being of the men, for improving their living conditions, and recreational and cultural opportunities.

The Party organisation tries to tie up all its measures with the programme for combat training. Thematic evenings, technical contests and quizzes conducted by the Communists are of educational value. They also promote the tasks of combat training.

The regiment focusses on the study of wartime experience which is an invaluable treasure-store for combat training and political education of the men. Knowledge of concrete cases when fighting men of the older generation exhibited courage and valour in battles for the Homeland evokes a sense of pride for the feats of heroism that they performed and a desire to act as their fathers and grandfathers did in selflessly serving their country.

Several years ago Praporshchik V. Gurov, secretary of the battalion YCL committee, proposed to conduct a regular exchange of letters with former soldiers who fought in the war. This initiative was encouraged and the men of the unit have been receiving letters from former fighters, who urge them to show excellent performance in time of peace and to uphold the honour and glory of their unit. The motorised infantrymen describe their life and work in the letters they write to the war veterans.

Hero of the Soviet Union Captain G. Balayan was entered into the lists of the 1st Company of the regiment for all time. In September 1943 the battalion was the first to effect a forced crossing of the Dnieper and to engage the enemy. The men of the battalion displayed audacity, resourcefulness and fighting skill. The battalion commander set a personal example to the men in displaying courage and valour.

On the firing ground and tankodrome the men compete for the honour to be the first to operate and conduct fire from an armoured fighting vehicle. Thus, during the field firing drills Senior Sergeant I. Mikhailov was given that honour. Other men tried to equal his achievements. The subunit carried out the exercise with excellent marks.

UNTAPPING LATENT RESERVES

Though the results secured have been high, the officers and men, in keeping with the precepts of the Party, regard them as a basis for scoring further achievements. In pursuit of the decisions of the 26th Party Congress, the June 1983 and December 1983 CPSU Central Committee Plenary Meetings, and the February 1984 Extraordinary Plenary Meeting the Military Council of the GSFG, commanders, staffs, political organs, Party and YCL organisations have geared their efforts to comprehending the experience they have accumulated to meet the requirements of the Party to the Soviet Armed Forces. Their purpose is to preserve and consolidate all the positive achievements and concentrate on the search for new reserves that would enable them to enhance the vigilance and the forces' level of combat readiness.

The commanders and political organs have focussed on command training of officers and their competence in methods. Various forms of educational work are designed to develop in them qualities that are essential for the accomplishment of responsible missions and tasks. As a rule, their level of theoretical and practical training, life experience and specifics of service are taken into account.

The highest form of units' and subunits' capability to conduct military operations is field drills and tactical exercises with field firing. The commanders prepare for and conduct exercises with due account of the situation that has taken shape in Europe after US cruise missiles and Pershings have been deployed. The commanders do their utmost to enable their subordinates to get a general idea of the battle and of the part they play in it, and also to get the feeling of the opposition put up by the "enemy." This develops the ability to act confidently both in the attack and on the defensive, display daring in negotiating obstacles and barriers, and conduct operations with the "enemy" employing nuclear missiles.

The personnel eagerly improve their technical knowledge and their skills and learn to make maximum use of their weapons, other combat equipment and technical systems. The subunits seek to develop a sense of pride in the men for their weapons and of confidence in them.

The present international situation poses before the officers new questions bearing on the moulding of moral-political qualities in the men. Every serviceman must thoroughly understand the precarious character of the military-political situation, the real danger that threatens world peace because of the policy pursued by the aggressive circles of the imperialist powers.

A decisive factor of combat readiness is irreproachable military discipline.

The conditions and specific character of service in the GSFG demand that every individual display strict self-discipline, ability for constant self-control insofar as ethics, behaviour and will power are concerned, and a readiness to be staunch, courageous and brave in executing the mission assigned.

The best way to achieve these disciplinary standards is to educate ideologically steeled men boundlessly devoted to the Party, to the ideals of communism, ardent patriots and internationalists who would be faithful to the Oath of Allegiance, their military duty and combat traditions. The commanders and political organs are using forms and methods in educational and organisational work in the units that meet the growing requirements to the discipline of the personnel.

Party-political work plays an exceptionally big role in ensuring a high level of combat readiness and in educating the men. It is above all designed to develop in every man a sense of personal responsibility for the defence of his Homeland and of other socialist countries, and to get him to put his heart into service duties. The content of Party-political work has become deeper, having been

enriched with new forms and methods. The main factor determining the effectiveness of Party-political work is its close, organic connection with the life of the forces, with the tasks being accomplished by the personnel of the GSFG. The officers are applying their efforts to advance fighting proficiency, i.e., they are working in the company, battery and squadron which are centres of political education.

Special attention is being paid to the organisation of topical propaganda among the men on alert duty. To this end special propaganda teams are sent to the subunits. The members of these teams brief the men of alert duty subunits on the aggressive aims of the imperialists, on the persistent peaceful foreign policy of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet Government and on the importance of constant combat readiness and utmost vigilance.

In today's tense international situation the units and subunits of the GSFG have further raised their combat readiness level. The personnel are fully aware of the responsibility that rests on them for the security of the Homeland and the other countries of the socialist community.

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MILITARY SCIENCE

USE OF SMALL DISPERSED FORCES EXAMINED

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 5, May 84 pp 28-29

[Article by Colonel V. Yaremko, Cand. Sc. (Military): "Victory With Smaller Forces"]

[Text]

A QUESTION of achieving victory over the enemy with a smaller quantity of manpower and equipment is constantly in the focus of military theory and practice. And with good reason. The ability to beat a numerically superior enemy is considered one of the major indices of a force's combat skill. This problem is particularly significant in contemporary conditions. The high dynamics, frequent and drastic changes of the situation in modern battle, availability of wide gaps and exposed flanks in troops' battle formations and also the increased combat and manoeuvring capabilities of units and subunits create real prerequisites for mutual penetration of belligerent sides to great distances.

Under such conditions both sides would try to take advantage of the results of the delivered blows. As a result, frequent encounters of groupings different in composition and equipment status will take place on the battlefield. In the main they will fulfil combat missions independently, with manpower and equip-

ment frequently smaller than those of the enemy.

Practice of combat training has shown that the leading role in achieving victory with smaller forces belongs to the commander, his tactical maturity, resourcefulness, bravery and initiative. In an unequal battle the ability of the commander to find decisions unexpected for the enemy and come up with original ways and methods of actions, particularly in the critical moments of battle, is all important. He must constantly influence the progress of combat, not lose contact with his subordinates and do his all to wrest the initiative from the enemy and maintain it until the mission assigned is completely fulfilled.

Battle with a numerically superior enemy always involves enormous psychological stress. In this case the commander's self-control and self-command are simply indispensable. The more complicated the situation, the greater one's control over one's feelings, thoughts and actions should be. Accurate and confident management and constant self-

possession on the part of the commander promote staunchness, courage and heroism among his subordinates.

To achieve victory against unequal odds the activity of the commander and his staff in preparing and securing the forthcoming actions and in leading subunits must be carried out with forestalling the enemy intentions and actions and be based on a deep analysis of the situation, exact timing and unflinching belief in success. Numerous examples from the experience of exercises show that victory by smaller

forces is inseparably connected with resolution, courage and bravery of the commander, of the entire subunit's personnel, with the delivery of a surprise forestalling blow at the enemy. One must take the enemy unawares, raise panic and confusion in his ranks; by courageous and resolute actions one must exploit the success achieved so as not to allow the enemy to collect himself and normalise everything. It is also considered expedient to deliver a blow, first of all, at the weakest spot in the enemy battle formation, to disperse him and destroy him piecemeal.

How important it is to forestall an opposing side in deployment and delivery of a decisive blow for its defeat by smaller forces may be confirmed by the following example.

At an exercise at Mts Inf Coy commanded by Senior Lieutenant Noskov acting as an advanced party, carried out courageous and forestalling operations and was able not only to "defeat" an analogous "enemy" subunit, but also suddenly to approach the vanguard battalion, to forestall it in deployment and to deliver a flank blow. Taken unawares, the battalion was crushed. Its commander was unable to undertake effective countermeasures. As a result, the battalion lost its superiority and suffered defeat in a mock battle.

All important in battle with a numerically superior enemy are the commander's creative abilities and his skill in grasping and estimating the situation literally at once. Carrying out the decisions taken persistently and in good time is also vital. However, persistence must not have anything with stubbornness. Only a comprehensive analysis of the situation and a subtle understanding of the character of modern battle, peculiarities of the enemy actions in the aggregate with the resolute actions can lead to victory for smaller forces.

Lastly, insufficiently grounded decisions as well as unspecific, delayed instructions and the commander's uncertainty are inadmissible in any battle. Especially so against unequal odds! Here stereotyped, quickly prepared, uncertain and slow actions of subunits are extremely dangerous! They will inevitably result in a defeat.

In a complicated, sometimes contradictory and rapidly changing situation when a subunit faces a numerically superior enemy, the commander's foresight acquires paramount importance. One who prior to the beginning of battle foresees the enemy intentions and probable actions has more chances for success. Otherwise it is impossible to carry out one's own most effective and unexpected actions and to concentrate the subunit's main effort at the

right time and place and thus to create necessary conditions for defeating the enemy piecemeal.

Also of paramount importance in achieving victory with smaller forces are a competent choice of a place, time and organisation and carrying out a forthcoming battle. Let us take terrain as an example. Like other elements of the situation, it is fraught with quite a few possibilities which can exert a decisive influence on the progress and outcome of a battle. Thus, during the Great Patriotic War (1941-45), in fighting near Belgorod, Soviet tankmen Lieutenants Silachyov and Dmitriyev, thanks to skilful use of advantageous conditions of the terrain managed by surprise actions to inflict heavy losses on the nazi tank column.

Covering the march of their tank unit, the officers discovered that several dozen enemy tanks were following them. Quickly estimating the situation, Soviet tankmen laid an ambush and engaged the enemy in an unequal battle using to the utmost the advantageous conditions of the terrain adjoining the road. Chosen fire positions secured good camouflage and favoured observation and delivery of an accurate fire. The nazi tanks here could not leave the road for they would get stuck in the bog. So when the tank column approached to within 700-800 m both crews opened a surprise fire and immediately put out an action several head tanks and then the tanks bringing up the rear. The enemy column was panic-stricken. Taking advantage of the situation, the Soviet tankmen destroyed a great number of nazi tanks.

The training of personnel for action against a numerically superior enemy must be comprehensive and thorough. Any detail, any neglect though insignificant at first sight can ultimately ruin a combat mission. It should always be remembered that even if an enemy possesses superiority he will constantly display vigilance and stubbornness in battle. Therefore in an attempt to achieve superiority it is not always necessary to rely on concealment and advantages which the terrain offers. Military ruse must be used on a large scale. Such was the case in one of the battles of the Great Patriotic War.

A rifle platoon had captured an inhabited locality. However, heavy enemy fire stopped further advance. The platoon was forced to consolidate on the line reached before the height captured by the nazis. After appraising the situation the platoon commander decided to deceive the nazis. He secretly shifted the larger part of the platoon from the inhabited locality to the wood and then, in sight of the enemy sent them back. He repeated this manoeuvre several times. When darkness set in the Soviet fighting men opened up and launched an attack. The enemy, convinced that he was being attacked by larger forces, did not give battle, and withdrew from the occupied positions. The platoon captured the height and POWs without any losses. According to their statements the nazi observers had counted towards evening as many as 200 soldiers and a large quantity of fire weapons on the platoon's position.

Thus, victory can be achieved by smaller forces provided new tactical methods unknown to the enemy are used and the available means are employed in an original fashion.

It is also necessary to be able to engage the enemy in unfavourable conditions for him and to use military ruse. Broad initiative of the commanders and staffs and the entire personnel should not be overlooked. A deep knowledge of modern warfare, thorough analysis of the situation, foresight of a possible development of battle and working out on this basis real plans and solutions and persistently putting them into effect--these are the qualities necessary for any commander to defeat the enemy with smaller forces.

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ARMED FORCES

NEW REGULATIONS REGARDING MILITARY PROPERTY

Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA ZAKONNOST' in Russian No 5, May 84 pp 8-10

[Article by A. Gornyy, Col Gen Justice, Chief Military Prosecutor: "Safeguard Military Property"]

[Text] In the current difficult and tense international environment, the CPSU and Soviet government are doing everything to defend and strengthen peace and free mankind from the threat of nuclear war. At the same time, as was emphasized at the February 1984 special plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the party will continue its concern for strengthening the defense capability of our country, so that we will have sufficient resources to cool the hot heads of militaristic adventurists.

Great material values created by the work of the Soviet people are spent for the needs of the army. It is the duty of each serviceman to treat these values thriftily, carefully and prudently. This is his constitutional and regulatory duty. Article 2 of the USSR Armed Forces Internal Service Regulations requires soldiers to know to perfection and to safeguard the weapons and military and other equipment entrusted to them, as well as military and public property.

Material liability of servicemen for damages, set by the government, serves along with other measures the aims of ensuring the safeguarding of socialist and military property and monetary resources.

At present, in connection with the adoption of the USSR Constitution in 1977 and the improvement in the entire Soviet legal system, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, by its decree of 13 January 1984, has confirmed a new regulation on material liability of servicemen for damages caused the state, which entered into force on 1 March 1984. Servicemen and military obligated personnel called up for training meetings who are guilty of causing damage to the state in the execution of duties provided for in military regulations, orders and other documents, bear material liability under this regulation.

The regulation also applies to servicemen of the organs and troops of the USSR Committee for State Security [KGB], supervisors and line personnel of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD], and students in military educational institutions.

These persons are liable under civil process for damages caused outside of the fulfillment of their official duties.

Material liability of servicemen is established to compensate for the material damage caused to the state, and does not replace other means of influence, or preclude disciplinary or criminal liability. In the event that servicemen and personnel called up for training are held criminally liable for crimes causing material damage, punishment through the court is imposed by civil suit as stated by the commander (supervisor). In other instances provided for in the regulation, a fine is levied on authority of the military unit commander (chief of establishment or institution).

The decision on holding a serviceman materially liable is taken upon the presence of: material damage to the state; a causative link between the material damage and the action (inaction) of the individual being held liable; and the unlawful actions (inaction) of that individual.

Article 2 of the regulation emphasizes that servicemen are not held materially liable if the damage is caused as the result of following the order of a superior. Nor are they held liable if damage results from lawful actions, or is the result of a justifiable official risk. For example, the actions of a sentry which are covered in regulations but cause material damage, and unavoidable damage to a building caused through preventing a fire from spreading, etc., would be lawful.

In accordance with Article 7 of the regulation, servicemen and persons called up for meetings are held materially liable for damage resulting from their careless execution of official duties provided for in military regulations, orders and other documents, in the amount of the damage, but no higher than: for warrant officers; extended service personnel; women on active military duty as soldiers, sailors, sergeants and senior sergeants; and officers, generals and admirals -- one month's pay; for personnel during their mandatory term of service and students -- 100 rubles; for servicemen called up for training meetings -- 150 rubles.

Servicemen and persons called up for training are held fully liable in cases of intentional destruction, damage, misappropriation, illegal expenditure of military property or damage caused by other intentional actions, regardless of whether they contain the elements of a crime; attesting in orders and other documents to the completion of work not actually completed; altering accounts and deceiving the state in other ways; shortages and destruction or damage to military property provided to the serviceman for retention, shipment, delivery, use or other purposes; damage caused by persons who are intoxicated, and also damage caused by an action (inaction) containing elements of criminal conduct. Multiple liability of servicemen and persons called up for meetings ensues for damage caused by misappropriation, waste or shortages of weapons, specialized aviation, naval and airborne clothing, navigation equipment, special clothing and shoes, inventory items and other particular types of military property.

A listing of such property and payment multiples is approved by the USSR Minister of Defense, KGB Chairman and Minister of Internal Affairs.

The amount of damage caused the state is determined by actual loss on the basis of accounting data stemming from retail prices or, in their absence, according to prices enumerated in the procedure established by the USSR State Committee on Prices. In instances when wholesale prices exceed retail prices, the damage is determined by wholesale prices.

Calculation of the amount of damage subject to compensation is made taking into account wear and tear, according to established norms.

It is necessary to note that, besides the grounds for subjecting servicemen to increased (multiple) material liability provided for in the present regulation, this category of persons may also be held so liable for failure to return library books. This question is resolved on the basis of general norms of Soviet law and standard regulations for the use of military libraries. The standard regulations note that, if a reader does not return the books which he has checked out, he is materially liable in accordance with the regulation on USSR library matters, reconfirmed in its tenth rendition by USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree of 13 March 1984.

The matter of the material liability of commanders and supervisors for damage caused by actions of their subordinates is subject to special regulation. They are liable in the amount of damage, not to exceed one month's pay, if their improper orders resulted in violating the established procedure for accounting for, storing, using, expending and shipping military property, or if they did not take the necessary steps to prevent misappropriation, destruction, damage or spoiling of military property, or to obtain compensation for damages from those at fault.

It must be emphasized that the new regulation provides for the material liability of warrant officers, extended service enlisted personnel, officers, generals and admirals, for stoppages of trains, ships and trucks, in the amount of the damage, but not to exceed one month's pay.

This measure is related to the fact that as a result of the poor organizing ability of some officials and other invalid causes, transport resources stand idle for a long period of time during loading and unloading of military goods, thus causing damage to the state which is reimbursed by fines levied upon military units (institutions).

Commanders (supervisors) of military units, institutions, military educational institutions, enterprises and organizations, who are guilty of unlawfully releasing or transferring a worker or employee to other work, are obligated to compensate in full for any damage caused in connection with remuneration paid for the time of the forced absence, or for the time during which lower paid work was accomplished, but in an amount no higher than three months' pay. They are so liable if they delay implementation of the decision of a court or higher commander (supervisor) about reinstating a worker, or for a firing or transfer carried out in clear violation of the law.

In the case of damage to third persons through the fault of servicemen or persons called up for meetings, which is recompensed by the military unit,

institution, military educational institution, enterprise or organization in accordance with existing law, those guilty of causing damage are required to reimburse the military unit.

To ensure strict observance of socialist legality, mandatory rules for investigating the facts of the damage and recovering from those at fault have been established for resolving the above enumerated questions. It is stipulated that the commander (supervisor) of a military unit, large unit, institution or establishment, upon detecting material damage, is obligated to designate immediately an administrative investigation to establish the causes, extent and parties responsible, if these circumstances are not established by inspection, examination, inquest, inquiry or the court. The investigation is conducted in writing and must be concluded within one month. If necessary, this period may be extended by the higher commander (supervisor), for not longer than one more month. Written explanations by guilty servicemen are always included in the investigative materials.

Once the amount of material damage and the guilty parties have been established, the commander (supervisor) of the military unit, institution or establishment, and when necessary the higher echelon supervisor, issues an order within a month of the completion of the administrative investigation or receipt of materials from inspection, examination or inquiry, or documents from a prosecutor and court, concerning recovering the appropriate amount from the pay of the guilty serviceman.

In the event that several servicemen are guilty, the order indicates the amount to be recovered from each, depending on the damage he caused, specific circumstances and degree of guilt. In exceptional instances the amount of damage recovered may be reduced by the commander (supervisor) of the military unit, large unit, institution or establishment, with the permission of the higher commander (supervisor) or court, taking into account the degree of guilt and the material situation of the guilty party, except for instances in which damage is caused by crimes committed for mercenary motives.

The guilty party is notified of and signs the order on the fine for material damage. He may appeal in the procedure established by the USSR Armed Forces Disciplinary Regulation, to the higher commander (supervisor), who reviews its grounds.

The appeal of an order does not suspend the withholding of money. If the order is protested by the military prosecutor, withholding is suspended until the protest is examined. Servicemen and persons called up for meetings who cause damage to the state may voluntarily compensate it in full or in part. If an order is revoked the money withheld is returned.

The monthly amount withheld must not exceed 20 percent, or, when compensating for damages caused by misappropriation and waste of military property, 50 percent of monetary pay (salary). If other withholds from pay (salary) provided for by law are being made, the overall amount of all withholds may not exceed 50 percent of monthly pay (salary). Under these circumstances the order and priority of withholding is determined by civil legal process.

If the serviceman or person called up for meetings who has been judged materially liable has not compensated for the damage which he caused the state by the day of his release into the reserves or retirement, or the end of his meetings, the remaining fine is recovered mandatorily by an officer of the court at the individual's place of residence, on the basis of an execution document signed by organs accomplishing notarial actions. Signed execution documents of state notary officers are forwarded for execution according to the procedure set for writs of execution, published by judicial organs. In locales where there are no state notary offices, execution documents are completed by the executive committees of rayon, city, settlement and village soviets of peoples deputies.

The regulation on the material liability of servicemen for damages caused to the state, approved by decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, is intended to help increase the sense of responsibility of servicemen for ensuring the safekeeping of weapons, equipment and other military property, as belonging to all the people, and as the material foundation of the military power of the USSR Armed Forces.

The most important thing is to not permit and to prevent damage, loss and misappropriation of military property, and also its misuse for purposes of personal enrichment; i.e., those actions (inactions) which damage the material base for the constant combat readiness of the Armed Forces. For this purpose it is necessary to explain the requirements of this Regulation to servicemen, persons called up for meetings and pre-draft age youth, and to use all forms and methods of party-political and educational work to foster in all citizens a feeling of thrift and personal responsibility for the preservation of socialist property.

Fulfillment of the requirements of the regulation on the material liability of servicemen for damages caused to the state, like other laws which protect public property, must be absolute. Military prosecutors are required to supervise its strict application in military units and institutions constantly and effectively, and to ensure that damages are unfailingly recovered from those guilty. Territorial prosecutors, pursuant to the order of the USSR General Prosecutor, must supervise the recovery of fines levied by way of notarial documents on servicemen released to the reserves and on persons who have completed call-up for training meetings.

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ARMED FORCES

TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MILITARY PROSECUTORS IN BELORUSSIAN SSR

Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA ZAKONNOST' in Russian No 5, May 84 pp 11-13

[Article by N. Zubar', Prosecutor, Minsk Oblast, Honored Jurist of the Belorussian SSR: "Concern About Cadres"]

[Text] It is well known that successful fulfillment of the tasks facing the organs of the prosecutor's office concerning the further strengthening of socialist legality and intensifying the battle against crime depend primarily on the correct selection, placement and education of prosecuting and investigative cadres.

Party-mindedness, thorough professional knowledge, a high degree of personal responsibility and a creative approach to matters -- these are the qualities with which our prosecutors and investigators must be imbued.

We are already displaying concern about the education of future cadres in the selection of entrants into VUZes. For matriculation into the Kharkov Judicial Institute, we recommend soldiers released into the reserves and persons who have worked in industry for no less than two years. In accordance with the agreement on creative cooperation between the Belorussian University and the BSSR Prosecutor's Office, we selected and recommended for admittance to the judicial faculty in 1983, 11 university graduates who stated their desire to work upon graduation in the organs of the Prosecutor's Office.

Such work is also planned for the future, which undoubtedly will help to staff the prosecutor's office with qualified cadres.

The necessary conditions are created in rayon and city prosecutors' offices for young specialists to acquire practical skills most quickly. The most experienced and best qualified prosecutors and investigators work with them. They strive to organize their work in such a way that the young specialists develop independence, initiative and a high personal sense of responsibility for their work. N. Khursik and V. Demidovich, honored jurists of the Belorussian SSR prosecutor's office in the Dzerzhinskiy and Chervensk rayons; A. Ivenskiy, prosecutor of the Investigative Administration; P. Dudinskiy, senior investigator, and other employees generously share their life and professional experience with the young people, and help them to overcome difficulties and acquire professional skill.

Work with the young specialists and their on-the-job training are organized and carried out in strict compliance with the instructions of the USSR Prosecutor's Office on these matters. Young specialists are named to duties of investigators and assistant prosecutors only after they successfully fulfill a program of on-the-job training and demonstrate the ability to investigate crimes independently and accomplish prosecutor's supervision. The overwhelming majority of the young specialists successfully learn their profession. It is no accident that many recent graduates have been promoted into responsible positions and are handling their work successfully. Among these are rayon prosecutors O. Novik, S. Grusha, I. Alenchik, M. Koleda, and oblast prosecutor's office senior investigator, A. Kolesnikovich.

The administration and department managers of the oblast prosecutor's office annually compile working plans for improving the qualifications of the employees of rayon and city prosecutor's offices, taking into account their knowledge, experience, errors committed and state of the law in their area of activity. On the basis of these plans the oblast senior assistant prosecutor for cadres develops measures for the selection, placement and education of cadres for the next year. After it is reviewed and approved by his colleagues, the plan is sent to the rayon and city prosecutors' offices for their information. This planning procedure allows work with cadres to be carried out in a differentiated, purposeful and most effective manner. Strict control is maintained over the timely and high quality fulfillment of plans and measures for working with cadres.

We practice various forms of professional training of prosecutors and investigators. Take, for example, prosecutors' and investigators' individual assignments for study of training aids. Recommendations for their study, and for that of individual legal documents as well, are given with consideration for the knowledge of the prosecutor or investigator on a particular question, and for the errors which he has committed.

Individual training assignments are only the start of our work. It is important to control its completion in a timely fashion. A commission headed by the chief of the appropriate department or deputy oblast prosecutor receives an examination from employees who have been given assignments. A report of the examination is made up and placed in the employee's personnel file. Practice shows that the organized study in this manner of specialized literature and legal materials not only helps improve the professional knowledge of prosecutors and investigators, but also helps to eliminate and prevent mistakes.

On-the-job training in departments of the oblast prosecutor's office plays a great role in improving the professional skill of prosecutors and investigators. Department chiefs prepare on-the-job training plans in advance. They provide questions for study which take into account the weaknesses of the employee. The plan is approved by the oblast prosecutor and sent to the future trainee in advance. Results of the on-the-job training are discussed in the departments with the participation of the oblast deputy prosecutor. A report of the on-the-job training is also put in the employee's personnel file.

We place particular importance upon on-the-job training which takes place in local areas, involving trips to the rayons, where the best qualified employees of the oblast prosecutor's office give practical assistance in organizing investigative work and prosecutor's supervision. Out of 39 on-the-job training programs carried out in 1982-1983, 16 took place in local areas. Employees of the oblast prosecutor's office, along with rayon prosecutors and their deputies and assistants, conducted general supervisory inspections, worked up presentations, prepared statements of claims, etc.

This form of on-the-job training is especially valuable for employees who are involved in supervision of the execution of laws on protecting socialist property and observing state discipline.

Training seminars, especially at the regional level, help in the development of cadres. They are conducted quarterly on questions of general supervision, supervision of the fulfillment of laws by investigative organs and preliminary investigations, and on the examination of court proceedings. We prefer regional seminars because, along with theoretical issues, they discuss extensively the practice of prosecutors' supervision, including at the local level. All seminar participants are involved in the discussion, thus facilitating the exchange of positive experience.

We also prefer regional seminars because, as a rule, they involve a frank discussion in a climate of comradely, well-meaning criticism and self-criticism. This is a most important condition for eliminating shortcomings. The creative exchange of work experience helps prosecutors to find correct and most effective solutions to questions which arise in practice.

The quality of the prosecutors' general supervisory documents which relate to discoveries of violations of law is actively discussed in the seminars. The prosecutors demonstrate their presentations, protests, information documents, decisions about effecting disciplinary measures and other documents. They are distributed among the seminar participants for discussion and each expresses his comments and desires about the documents studied. The seminar leader provides a wrap-up on the results of the discussion. During the course of discussion of the quality of prosecutors' general supervisory documents, we became firmly convinced that there is a great need to teach stylistics in judicial VUZes.

Each quarter we compile a cumulative table of the main indices of the work of rayon and city prosecutors concerning areas of prosecutors' supervision, and send them to all prosecutors for information. This forces those who are lagging to increase their efforts in a particular area of work, and thereby to seek to attain better results.

The investigative administration publishes a quarterly bulletin about the work of the prosecutor's office investigators. It cites data characterizing the work of each investigator, uses specific examples to uncover the causes of violations of investigative deadlines and of cases returned for further investigation, gives examples of professional oversimplification, demonstrates its consequences, etc.

The bulletin gives specific facts which show how the proper use of scientific and technical equipment helps uncover particular crimes. A significant place in the bulletin is devoted to analyzing shortcomings and errors made in explaining the causes and conditions which contribute to the commitment of crimes. Attention is devoted to the importance of the investigators' personal participation in reviewing their presentations in the labor collectives.

The bulletin helps the investigator to analyze his work self-critically, and helps improve his professional skill and activeness in the struggle against crime.

In order to improve the qualifications of cadres, we also use such forms of training as distributing informational letters about leading experience in prosecutor's and investigative work, conducting scientific-practical conferences, etc.

Certifications compiled with the participation of the leadership of the oblast prosecutor's office are used actively for appropriate study carried out by cadres, strengthening of professional discipline, increasing efficiency and personal responsibility for entrusted matters, and improving cadres' general and professional cultural levels.

Constant concern for improving the professional level of cadres is indivisible from their ideological, political and moral education.

All prosecutors and investigators study in a network of party education. Annually several persons complete the University of Marxism-Leninism night school. Meetings are held with veterans of the party and prosecutor's office and participants in the Great Patriotic War, and trips are taken to places of military glory and to the country's cultural centers.

Great importance is placed on the employees' active participation in public life. The majority of rayon and city prosecutors are propagandists, rectors of peoples universities of legal knowledge, and chairmen of coordination and methodological councils on legal propaganda. Employees of the prosecutor's office make no little contribution to propagandizing Soviet laws. They appear in labor collectives, in the press and on radio and television. Prosecutors and investigators have begun to speak more often in labor collectives on the results of criminal investigations and general inspections.

Practical work with cadres is being systematically generalized, results are discussed at boards and party meetings, and steps are being taken to improve forms and methods.

All of this is giving positive results. Currently, politically mature and qualified employees are working in the oblast organs of the prosecutor's office. All have higher judicial education and 43.2% have more than 10 years of experience. The principle of combining experienced and young specialists is being consistently observed. There is not a rapid turnover of cadres. The overwhelming majority of prosecutors and investigators have a responsible

attitude toward fulfilling their professional duty, react in a timely manner to critical comments and eliminate shortcomings speedily.

Here is a typical example. In March 1982 a comprehensive check revealed shortcomings in the work of the Krupski Rayon prosecutor's office. The board strictly pointed out to O. Novik, the rayon prosecutor, omissions in his struggle against lawbreaking. The next year his fulfillment of the suggestions was checked and it was determined that Novik had ably restructured the activity of the rayon prosecutor's office, had been able to concentrate the efforts of the collective on fulfilling priority tasks, and had accomplished important and valuable work which really helped strengthen legality and reduce crime in the rayon. The city and rayon prosecutors in the oblast were informed about the positive experience of this office.

Constant improvement in work with cadres and the search for new forms and methods facilitates improving the level and effectiveness of an investigation and all areas of prosecutor's supervision, and thus also strengthens law and order and further strengthens the battle against crime.

Sharing some positive experience, we also recognize that we still also have shortcomings. There is still much for us to do to fulfill completely the tasks arising for the prosecutors' organs as a result of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums.

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ARMED FORCES

MILITARY JOURNALS, NEWSPAPER COVERAGE FAULTED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Apr 84 p 2

[Press review: "The Newspaper and Young Officers"]

[Text] The Army and Navy press has an invariable obligation to give constant attention to the life and work of young officers, and to how they are growing and becoming conditioned mentally and assimilating the qualities as organizers of the personnel's training and indoctrination.

For example, the newspapers ZA RODINU (Red Banner Volga Military District) and NA STRAZHE RODINY (Order of Lenin Leningrad Military District) have gained a certain amount of experience in covering the subject of young officers' indoctrination. Prominent military leaders, commanders, political officers, veterans, production innovators and people's deputies often appear in their pages. Their professional and worldly advice helps young officers in their tactical development and moral indoctrination and contributes to the development of high moral-political and job qualities.

Close ties have been formed by the editorial collectives of these newspapers with the command element and with party and Komsomol activists of military schools. This provides a rich opportunity to publish articles telling about school graduates. In addition, letters are printed from those who put on their lieutenant shoulderboards just yesterday.

Young officers and graduating cadets perceive such articles in a special way and await them impatiently since each author reveals a particular problem and shares the experience of practical work. A report published in the newspaper ZA RODINU entitled "What Do You Take Along in the Pack?" is indicative in this regard. Its author, cadet squad commander Sgt A. Popov, writes in particular: "I have before me a letter from my comrade Lt Sergey Vakhtilov. He completed school a year ago and now is performing duty in one of the units. 'I have developed in the position,' reports Sergey. 'The knowledge I received in school is quite sufficient to control the sophisticated equipment. It is just the people... I have trouble with this for now, and experience difficulty in indoctrination work with subordinates...'" This letter convinces Sgt Popov and his comrades once again that during school training a person has to persistently master the skills of working with people and heed the advice of experienced instructors.

This newspaper also doesn't ignore shortcomings in the young officers' professional development, indoctrination and everyday living arrangements. Maj M. Guk's report "Awaiting an Assignment" merits attention. It states that the majority of officers are related by the desire to master weapons and equipment to perfection and by a thirst for a constant expansion of their military and political knowledge and an imaginative search in their work. Career prospects naturally open up for skilled, experienced officers with initiative.

But in life things are different, emphasizes the report. Party member Capt V. Suvorov serves in one unit. The comments about him are the very highest, the platoon he commands is the best in the unit and the officer has been awarded the Order of Red Star, but the question of his career advancement has not yet been decided positively.

The newspaper LENINSKOYE ZNAMYA (Red Banner Kiev Military District) also has begun to devote more attention to the indoctrination of young officers and military school cadets of late. For example, an article by Capt G. Boyko entitled "The Pilot is Rated, But is He an Indoctrinator?" generated lively interest and numerous responses from readers. HSU Col (Res) S. Komarov also took part in discussing it along with commanders, political officers and other officers. In the article entitled "Without an Allowance for Youth" he says proudly that each time he has occasion to meet with young officers and discuss their development with them he concludes that today's lieutenants are the equal of the frontlinesmen.

The newspaper regularly publishes collections of articles of the Korchaginets Komsomol-Youth Club, which tell about the life, studies and indoctrination of military school cadets--the future officers. But the editors should take a more exacting approach to preparing certain articles on this subject and consider the spiritual needs and age features of this category of readers.

Each of the newspapers mentioned above has its own approach to covering issues connected with the indoctrination of young officers, and they have their own creative discoveries. But there also are a number of problems which unfortunately have not yet been given proper attention by the journalists. They are at times timid in intruding on the sphere of appraisals of individual and personality qualities of young officers. Newspapers write much about their professional development and about the fact that a majority of yesterday's school graduates fire accurately, drive combat vehicles well, are capable of holding a class or organizing socialist competition in a methodologically correct manner and with a great return for the soldiers, and are successfully mastering the art of working with people. But one does not always see behind all this what the officer is like as an individual and whether or not he has all the qualities needed as a military leader.

It must be said that the newspapers, and NA STRAZHE RODINY in particular, still do not write enough about the specific, on-the-job, everyday work of commanders, political officers and party organizations of units and ships to instil in young officers a high sense of personal responsibility for faultless performance of duties, or about the role and importance of officer collectives.

It is specifically the newspapers which contribute to the officers' indoctrination in a spirit of friendship, solidarity and pride in their profession and in defending the socialist Motherland. Senior commanders and chiefs, the officers at large and party organizations are called upon to confirm in every way the importance of officers' personal example in daily life.

Readers have the right to expect more articles in Army and Navy newspapers which contain thoughts of the officer youth about the high purpose of military labor and an analysis of their own actions as well as those of comrades and an analysis of reflections about how to ensure that a young officer sets a personal example and his internal and external culture and pedagogic tact increase.

The Marxist-Leninist training of young officers and their ideological-theoretical conditioning is one of the most important subjects of military newspapers. It is also important for journalists to remember that young officers are a large detachment of propagandists and political study group instructors. Articles revealing the process of officers' self-education and their ability to apply theoretical knowledge in practice require thorough preparation.

Meanwhile newspapers do not always show individual work with young officers instructively. Their pages still lack vivid articles showing the officers' just regulation exactingness, their closeness to people, an intrinsic need to have contact with them and a readiness to share successes and failures and endure the burdens of military service with the privates and NCO's. One rarely encounters criticism addressed to those who permit deviations from requirements of the oath and regulations and from the standards of communist morality.

It would appear that military newspapers must reinforce their attention to the work of cultural enlightenment establishments, persistently propagandize the work experience of the best ones, criticize in a businesslike, principled manner the formalism and monotony existing in the organization of young officers' days off, ensure a fuller satisfaction of the needs of servicemen and members of their families, and wage a more persistent struggle for a healthy everyday life and for officers' rational use of their free time.

Now, when preparations are under way for the All-Army Conference of Komsomol Organization Secretaries, the district, group and fleet newspapers are called upon to be more active in showing the role and participation of young officers in the life and work of Komsomol organizations.

The military labor of Army and Navy personnel is full of great intensity these days. Responding to resolutions of the February and April 1984 CPSU Central Committee plenums and having adopted the conclusions and recommendations set forth in Comrade K. U. Chernenko's speeches, the armed defenders of the Land of Soviets are persistently improving vigilance and combat readiness and they are standing vigilantly on guard over the Soviet people's peaceful creative labor.

ARMED FORCES

BUREAUCRATIC FOUL-UP RESULTS IN FINES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Apr 84 p 4.

[Satirical article by Col A. Drovosekov: "Comprehending the Truth"]

[Text] Circumstances weighed on Engr-Col A. Makarov and disturbed his emotional equilibrium. The senior chief was hurrying to begin the construction but he didn't even have the right to pound the first peg: there was no logging permit. The customer in the person of Engr-Lt Col A. Pashkov had been fussing about it for a long while now, but all without result. Suddenly when Makarov had become completely disillusioned about the customer's job qualities the latter unexpectedly brightened his life with a handwritten announcement:

"Work front for runoff drainage assured. Logging permitted according to diagram dated 14 March 1983. Width 20 m, length 1,200 m." Also appended to the announcement was a sketch of the cut and signature by Anatoliy Fedorovich Pashkov.

Having taken heart, the military builders took to the axes. The forest rang, moaned and crackled, as a poet wrote at one time, and a clearing formed as a result which was spotted by the foresters. On seeing it they asked for the logging permit. Engr-Col Makarov turned to Pashkov:

"Anatoliy Fedorovich, the logging permit is needed!"

"I know what's needed, only I don't have it. But I will. In the very near future. It has been authorized."

Makarov went to the forestry, but the people there are firm and don't give in to promises and assurances. What is there to talk about if there is no logging permit? You'll pay for every tree, and of course there will be a fine as well.

The forestry bookkeeping office estimated what the cost was, and this resulted in a figure which took Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Makarov's breath. It was no laughing matter: 40,623 rubles! This was nothing to sneeze at, as the saying goes.

But let's leave Comrade Makarov for awhile as he ponders what happened and mention Engr-Col A. Sinyavskiy, who at the whim of fate also was forced to come into official contact with Engr-Lt Col Pashkov as a subcontractor. And just as in the case with Makarov this contact wasn't cheap--19,723 rubles 96 kopecks. That was the total cost of the trees and the fine for cutting them without a logging permit.

Anatoliy Antonovich Sinyavskiy was resolved to force Comrade Pashkov to cough up the money for this amount (or more precisely, the organization which he represented). The fact is that he, Sinyavskiy, wouldn't have given the command to cut the timber had not Pashkov assured him that there allegedly had been an authorization for this. But Anatoliy Antonovich's arguments had no effect either on departmental or on state arbitration, where they were considered groundless in both places. Both places reminded him of the well-known truth: the only document giving the right to cut timber is the logging permit or order. No other written or verbal directions of officials are taken into account since they cannot serve as a legal basis. Makarov also received exactly the same explanation and, just like Sinyavskiy, he was forced to transfer the amount due into the forestry fund.

As we see, the cost of an old truth or, more accurately, the scorning of it, proved rather high: more than 60,000 rubles were paid out of the ministry of defense budget. This money of course was worth gathering comrades Makarov, Sinyavskiy and Pashkov at the same table and asking them the question: Can these thousands be returned?

"No, even on condition of obtaining a logging permit," responded Pashkov.

"But you yourself gave a written assurance that the logging had been authorized. It turns out you were deceiving them?"

"No I didn't deceive them. The authorization is there but the logging permit was not made out. Makarov himself is at fault because he began to cut the timber..."

It cannot be denied that Anatoliy Fedorovich is sly, very sly! As the customer he was obligated to provide the general contractor, i.e., Makarov, with all necessary authorizing documentation including a logging permit, but he didn't do this on time. Construction had to be begun; deadlines were pressing and every now and then the chief would demand explanations. Here is where Pashkov wrote Makarov that the logging had been authorized, which gave him freedom of maneuver. If the chief asks at a planning session whether or not there was an authorization for logging he could be given an answer on the spot: yes, sir, there is. "And why aren't they cutting timber?" "I don't know, but I informed them of the authorization." And if they begin to log without the logging permit all the unpleasantness rests with the general contractor. You can't expect anything of the customer. "I didn't give instructions, but confirmation that the logging had been authorized."

There is no denying that these are sly tactics that are not simple to discover, just as it is not simple to discuss the argument between Sinyavskiy and

Pashkov. The former asserts that he cut where and just as much as he, Pashkov, had instructed him while the latter insists that Sinyavskiy logged beyond the limits of the designated lot. The argument now would appear to be pointless in a certain sense because the fine for logging without a permit already has been recovered from the UNR [work supervisor's office] headed by Sinyavskiy. Nevertheless it seemed to us to be of fundamental importance as it was a question of honesty in business relationships. Nothing good will come of it without mutual trust. And as if in confirmation of this we came across a telephone message to Comrade Makarov signed by Comrade Pashkov dated 19 March 1984:

"I wish to inform you that on 16 March 1984 the forestry re-evaluated the forest tracts to be used for construction. . . . Authorization was received for logging. Request you make arrangements for the logging."

"Will you cut?" I asked Makarov.

"Not until I receive a logging permit."

This was pleasing to hear. It was only a pity, of course, that a high price had to be paid for the lesson and for comprehending the truth, and not at personal expense, but at state expense.

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CSO: 1801/312

GROUND FORCES

TANK DEFENSE EXERCISE REVIEWED

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 5, May 84 pp 21-22

[Article by Colonel N. Yelshin: "Beating Off a Tank Attack"]

[Text]

Two hours had elapsed since the exercise director gave the following narrative to Senior Lieutenant A. Dufov, the 2nd Mts Inf Coy commander: in the area of the inhabited locality of Sosnovka (see Sketch) reconnaissance detected an "enemy" column moving in the direction of the company strong point.

Dufov ordered the platoon commanders and also specially detailed observers to intensify observation. The same instruction was given to the duty tanks and IFVs. In case of "enemy" attempts to carry out reconnaissance by separate groups these duty weapons, being in constant readiness, were to destroy them.

Some time later Lieutenant Yegorov, commander of the 1st Mts Inf Pl, reported having detected an "enemy" reconnaissance patrol on the edge of Kruglaya Wood. Immediately after that Lieutenant Dyshev, the left-flank 2nd Inf Pl commander, reported that an "enemy" group tried to carry out reconnaissance from the side of Shirokaya Hill. Dufov ordered the reconnaissance patrol to be destroyed by fire from the duty weapons.

Later on after a short but intensive "enemy" artillery preparation during which the personnel of the company and the attached weapons

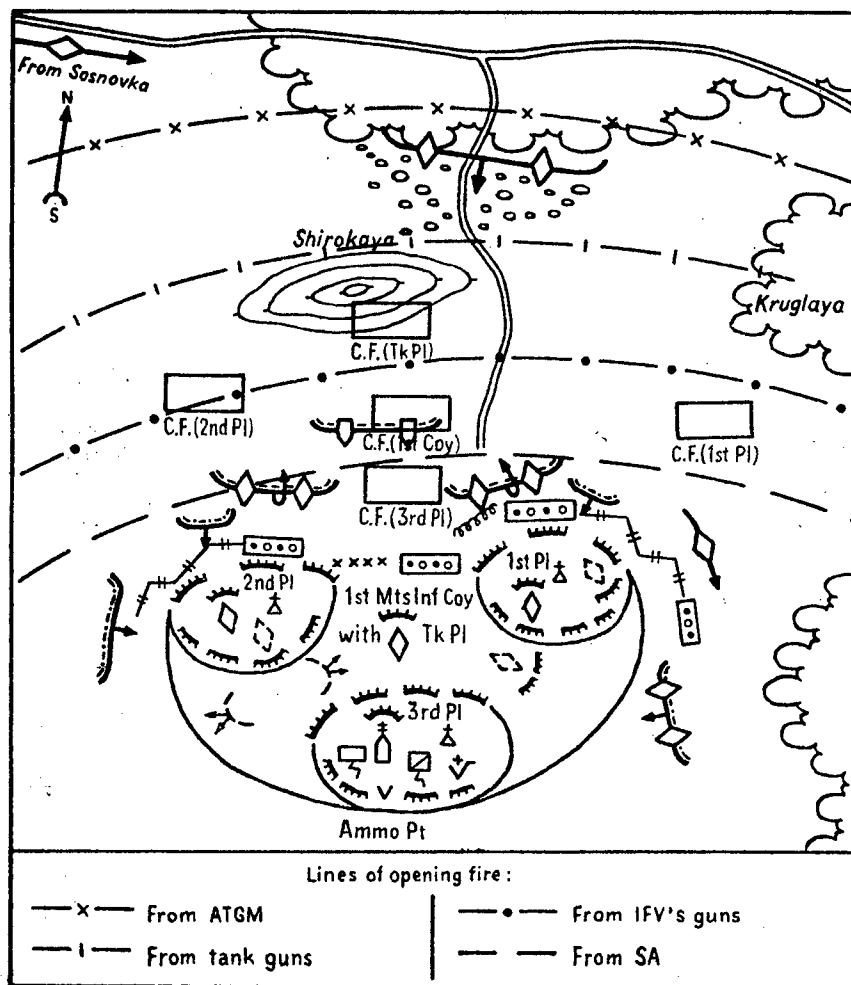
concealed in slit trenches, dugouts, IFVs and tanks, up to two tank companies accompanied by the infantry appeared from the forest.

The line of opening fire by ATGMs of IFVs ran along the edge of the wood. Senior Lieutenant Dufov, however, had not yet given the order for launching because there were high bushes on the edge of the wood and the effectiveness of launchings would not be satisfactory. But hardly had the tanks reached the open ground when by a signal of the company commander the fire-control operators engaged the "enemy." Three attacking vehicles stopped.

When the "enemy" approached Shirokaya Hill, tank guns opened up. Two more vehicles stopped, damaged by the first shot. Then one more vehicle.

Senior Lieutenant Dufov understood that the main task was to deprive the "enemy" of his tanks. He skilfully manoeuvred the tanks, and gave orders to change positions in good time. However, the defenders sustained losses too.

The moment had come when it was necessary to take a decision influencing the outcome of the practice battle: either the offensive would be beaten off or the "enemy" would manage to crack the defences.



Up till now Lieutenant Dutov confidently and accurately controlled his subunit. During this time the exercise director made only some minor criticisms.

Insofar as the company was assuming the defensive out of contact with the "enemy" there was enough time to organise it. Senior Lieutenant Dutov made use of this time to the utmost. Tackling numerous important questions he constantly kept in mind that the stability and activity of defences depend to a great extent on how skilfully the fire system and particularly, tank fire, would be organised. During on-the-spot reconnaissance he specified the probable direction of the "enemy" tanks' attack and sectors of ter-

rain the holding of which would further the success of the combat mission and also the positions of the attached tank platoon.

Dutov paid particular attention to specifying the platoon fire zones, sectors of concentrated fire (C.F.), primary and alternate fire positions of IFVs and the attached tanks. Then, in the combat order he indicated them to the commanders of the platoons and attached subunits. Since the company assumed a two-echelon battle formation the company commander saw to it that fire zones and sectors of fire weapons of the 3rd Inf Pl, holding defences in the second echelon, would cover the flanks of the 1st and 2nd platoons' strong points, and also secured the

defeat of the "enemy," who broke through the gap between the platoons to the flanks and limiting points with nearby platoons.

Senior Lieutenant Dutov considered the gap between the 1st and 2nd platoons to be the most tank-threatened one. Therefore he ordered the attached platoon of combat engineers to lay an antitank mine field. In case the infantry accompanying the tanks broke through here, sappers installed an obstacle sector 200 m long consisting of two rows of barbed wire. Besides, Dutov positioned one tank of the attached platoon on the height between the platoon strong points. He assigned the sectors of fire (primary and secondary) to the crew so that it would be able to completely overlap an antitank mine field and a sector of other obstacles. In case of a tank breakthrough on the right, the crew was to occupy an alternate position. Dutov gave the 1st and 2nd platoons one tank each.

While organising cooperation Senior Lieutenant Dutov specified fire missions for destroying the "enemy" on the approaches to the defences and defined the lines of opening fire from tanks, IFVs and hand antitank grenade launchers. He coordinated subunits' actions at all stages of battle, including the repulsing of the "enemy" tank attack before the FEBA and during their penetration into the strong point.

Directions and lines of deployment for counterattacks by the platoon of the second echelon were also foreseen.

Senior Lieutenant Dutov took measures in case he was forced to take up a perimeter defence. He assigned additional fire sectors for platoons and during preparation of primary

and alternate fire positions saw to it that tanks and IFVs were able to deliver fire from them in the direction of the flanks and the rear. On the right flank where the terrain was favourable for a tank attack Dutov ordered a mine field consisting of antitank and antipersonnel mines to be laid.

At first the events developed as Senior Lieutenant Dutov thought they would. The "enemy" already sustained considerable losses at the far approaches. The frontal attack was unsuccessful. An attempt to make a passage through mine fields also failed. Before the forward edge part of vehicles was damaged by grenade launchers and two vehicles blew up on mines.

Then the "enemy," having bypassed the mine field with part of his remaining tanks, attacked the strong point on the right. From the front he immobilised the defenders while up to two infantry platoons had moved along the left flank. The infantry hit the ground preparing for the attack.

Platoons of the first echelon engaged the "enemy" in fierce fighting. However, they had enough manpower and equipment for holding positions and beating off the "enemy" attacks. The major threat hung over the right flank. Realising this, Dutov ordered the tank crew to take up an alternate position and the 3rd platoon commander to open fire from the IFVs should the "enemy" tanks penetrate the defences.

The exercise director, up till now attentively observing Senior Lieutenant Dutov's actions, suddenly gave a narrative: "Comrade Senior Lieutenant: the tank did not reach an alternate position and is destroyed.

The tank attached to the 1st platoon is also disabled. Helicopters attacked the strong point of the 3rd platoon. Two IFVs are damaged and casualties are 20 per cent. Six "enemy" tanks bypassed the strong point of the 1st Pl."

Senior Lieutenant Dutov became lost in thought. He knew what to do — to destroy the tanks. But how and with what weapons? The 3rd Pl had neither manpower nor equipment to carry out an independent counterattack. The 1st and 2nd Pls were engaged in battle.

The exercise director looked at his watch. The company commander mulled over the situation strenuously but only a phrase he remembered from military school came to mind: "It is not the one who in striving to destroy the enemy did not achieve his goal but the one who displayed inactivity, indecision and did not use all possibilities for carrying out the assigned mission that deserves reproach."

And the decision, the only correct one in the given situation, suddenly came to his mind! Each section of the 1st and 2nd Pls possesses grenade launchers. Now they will do without them: for there are no tanks before the front and on the left flank of the attackers. Therefore grenade launcher operators additionally provided with hand antitank grenades can (and must) be sent to help the 3rd Pl against the "enemy" tanks which had managed to break through.

"Decided," began Dutov.

Having listened to Dutov, the exercise director smiled and said:

"Well, Comrade Senior Lieutenant! Your decision is absolutely correct. Give the last post signal!"

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CSO: 1812/217

GROUND FORCES

USE OF LIVE GRENADES FOR INITIAL TRAINING CRITICIZED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA special correspondent Col V. Filatov: "A Military Writer's Notes: The Soldier Dropped the Grenade..."]

[Text] Soldiers of the motorized rifle company commanded by Capt Vladimir Yakovlev (at that time he was still a senior lieutenant) were performing an exercise of throwing live grenades. Then the unforeseen happened. Pvt N. Umurzakov hastily pulled the pin, cocked the firing device, swung back his arm, then suddenly stumbled and dropped the grenade under his feet.

Only four seconds remained until the explosion...

The senior lieutenant was standing several steps away. He swiftly dashed to the bewildered soldier without pausing to reflect, shoved him sharply aside, knocked him down and covered him with his own body. A deafening explosion rang out in the next instant and fragments spread out in a sheaf over the ground. Two of them seriously wounded the officer.

When this incident became known to the editors it was thought that such an event was worthy of a more comprehensive and detailed narrative such as in a sketch. I phoned the DVO [Far East Military District] in Khabarovsk and was told that such a thing had happened...

We have had occasion to read repeatedly of late how officers shielded soldiers with themselves and each time it was almost one and the same thing: grenade throwing, a pin pulled, then "suddenly," "unexpectedly," "unforeseen"...

In the stressful and naturally dangerous training routine where everything is seething under near-combat conditions with speed, fire and explosions, where bullets whistle and shells burst, our commanders display valor, heroism and courage, including when those same four seconds remain to the fatal moment. You yourself must perish but help out a comrade is the standard of life for our soldiers. That is always how it was and how it always will be.

I leaf through the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA file for 1941-1945. The newspaper pages swirl with actions and battles. Here are the very first lines about the exploits of Talalikhin and Gastello, Safonov and Pokryshkin, Matrosov and

Smirnov, the 28 Panfilov Heroes... Amidst the enormous amount of documentary material are entire poems about how soldiers protected their commanders in combat, how they carried them, struck down by bullets and fragments, from the battlefield, and how they shielded commanders in combat with their own bodies.

And this is understandable. We say that the commander's order is the Motherland's order. A commander is given the right to order in the name of the Motherland. "For the Motherland!" he says, drawing the soldiers forward against the enemy. "For the Motherland!" he says, leading the soldiers into bullets and shells, against machineguns and to death in order to defeat the enemy and win victory. That is why the commander always is the soul and brain of battle. Everyone lines up on him and rushes after him. That is why the regulation makes it the duty of each serviceman "to obey commanders (chiefs) unquestioningly and protect them in combat." To protect the commander in combat is, figuratively speaking, the law of combat, elevated and inspired, leading to victory over the enemy. That is how it was at the front.

From issue to issue, the reports and articles in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA of those years glorify the exploit of fighting men, and the newspaper also printed articles devoted to the most routine element, training. Soldiers would take the course in knowledge under shortened programs and abbreviated methodologies. For example, they learned to master a weapon such as the Molotov cocktail. It had the very same purpose as grenades, but compared with the grenade it was like comparing holding a rattlesnake in a sturdy, reliable sack and holding the very same rattlesnake by the tail with the bare hands. And they held them. They not only held them, they used them to burn fascist tanks and armored cars.

But... There is not even one mention or announcement amidst the abundance of articles about combat training similar to that with which this article began. There are innumerable problems involving training soldiers for combat, only there are no instances where one of the soldiers dropped a grenade with a pulled pin beneath his feet and in saving him the commander received a serious wound from his own grenade far from the front, far from the forward edge.

But perhaps grenades have become more complicated since then? They have become immeasurably simpler, more convenient and more reliable in handling and use. Then just what happened?

To find answers to these questions I crossed the threshold of the company commanded by Capt V. Yakovlev. The company was preparing to go on detail and everyone was in his place except Umurzakov. I located a person who was at that grenade-throwing on 11 January 1983, Pvt A. Anufriyev.

"Before that we had been throwing a dummy. Umurzakov spent more time on fatigue details. When all this happened and they were taken away we were formed up by battalion commander Maj Artamonov, who said: 'There has been a ChP [serious accident]. Pvt Umurzakov was blown up by a grenade and the company commander was wounded' Classes were suspended..."

Let's note: "Pvt Umurzakov was blown up by a grenade and the company commander wounded," and not, as we were informed, that "boldness and resolve . . . saved a soldier's life."

When those events occurred Lt A. Trukhin was Yakovlev's subordinate and commanded a platoon:

"I will say briefly about the ChP with Umurzakov that the company commander worked little with this soldier. At that moment the platoon commander was on leave. They made the ChP a heroic act. It is mandatory during live grenade-throwing to have a point for throwing simulated grenades. It did not exist, which is a very crude violation of safety procedures and training methodology..."

Later I met with Pvt N. Umurzakov. Unfortunately we didn't have a conversation as such.

I asked Capt V. Yakovlev:

"Was there simulated grenade-throwing that day?"

"There wasn't," he responded. "And even if there had been... You can't foresee a fateful incident," he answered.

Here is an extract from the order dated 25 January 1983. "Safety precautions were crudely violated while weapons training classes were being held at the training station for throwing hand grenades and as a result Pvt N. N. Umurzakov and Sr Lt V. F. Yakovlev received light wounds. The reason for this situation was that company commander Sr Lt Yakovlev did not exercise proper supervision over personnel while at the training station and allowed a serviceman to throw grenades who previously received an unsatisfactory grade in throwing a practice simulated grenade. I order . . . a severe reprimand for Sr Lt V. F. Yakovlev for a negligent attitude in conducting classes in grenade throwing and for an infraction of safety precautions Commander Chief of staff"

That is how this was evaluated from an official standpoint.

Our soldiers live a strenuous combat routine. This routine gives their characters the highest test daily and hourly and gives no allowance in checking firmness of heart or allegiance to duty and troop comradeship. The commanders' routine is full of true heroism. When something not quite right or far-fetched occurs in such situations or black is passed off as white it always ends with a profanation of the sacred exploit. The job of indoctrinating people is damaged. Only an exploit always is a teacher for everyone and for a long time.

Let's digress somewhat from specific names and from this exceptional fact in our life and take a look at the situation with the grenade through the eyes of the Regulation and through the eyes of War. A grenade has fallen two paces from

the company commander and a soldier. Three or four seconds are left... The soldier sees the grenade. What must he do? How must he act? I repeat that when the officer covers the soldier with his body this shows once again the unity and solidarity of our combat ranks and demonstrates the supreme moral qualities of our officers and the immutability of laws of troop fraternity and comradeship. But in this case we are talking about combat training and about instilling in the soldier a readiness not to be confused or make a mistake in combat. In addition to all else we are talking here about the productiveness of each hour of training time and about the commanders' methods proficiency. The training area, firing range, tank training area, airborne drop zone and finally even practice combat itself are not places where matters must be taken to that tragic point where someone has to "shield," "cover" or "screen" someone with their own body in the direct meaning of this word. Combat training is going on where everything develops from the elementary to the most complicated, gradually, step by step: this is the guarantee against all "suddenly's," "unexpectedly's," and "unforeseen's"... When we say "Matrosov covered the enemy embrasure with his chest," it is clear and understandable to all that it was a situation where they had closed to the death and it was possible to win only at the cost of life. When we say: "The soldier covered the commander with his body in combat," it is clear and understandable to all that were the commander to perish in combat the person who used himself to shield the commander and many others might perish... At the training area (not in combat) everything can be set aside and repeated, practiced again and again and finally any person can be taught the most difficult things. Drivers have a rule: "Don't pass if you're not sure!" Tankmen have a law: "I don't drive if I can't hear, I don't fire if I can't see." Pilots have a truism: "Success in the air is forged on the ground." All this is nothing more than a code of safety rules. People struggle for this in the subunit and in the best ones they don't deviate from this a single step.

The heroic in the training routine means mastery of the heights of military proficiency.

It goes without saying that life is complicated, but this is no reason to gesture helplessly as if to say you can't foresee a fateful incident. It goes without saying that our combat and military routine is fraught with risk and danger as no other, but this does not at all mean that one's own stupid bungling is allowed to be explained by something "fateful," if not fatal.

It goes without saying that life is complicated, but this only proves one thing: it constantly gives us a choice. I already have had occasion to write about Jr Sgt Valeriy Levushkin. This "suddenly," "unexpectedly" and "unforeseen" also happened with him once in an exercise... It was March, and a practice action was under way. There was an attack and the junior sergeant was running in front. He also was the first to swing his arm back to throw his grenade but at this very moment a gust of wind suddenly puffed up the very wide sleeve of his camouflage robe and the thrown grenade ended up in the sleeve like in a bag. The junior sergeant tried to pull it out; he had a sub-machinegun in his other hand. He shook the sleeve, the grenade fell out and the loose snow swallowed it up. The junior sergeant plunged his hands into the snow in the hope of feeling out the grenade there, but his comrades

already were running up to the rear and sides, and the platoon commander was closest of all.

Four seconds were left...

How did the junior sergeant act during this time? He did everything without fear or panic to prevent the irreparable with his own hands. And what did he do, what did he choose, when he realized that four seconds had elapsed and he saw his commander and the other soldiers close by? He shouted: "Lie down! It'll explode!" But this shout could no longer save those who had run up--it was too late. Then the junior sergeant fell with his chest on the place where the grenade was hidden. He died, taking all fragments to the last piece from his own grenade.

That is how people act when there is a grenade and when it is really suddenly, unexpectedly and unforeseen, and the commander and your comrades are nearby. Of course this is a tragic incident but it is in its tragic nature that it illuminates even more the behavior of a soldier in combat and his supreme duty when combat and the attack are under way. This was an exploit by a well trained, well prepared, knowledgeable fighting man who possessed a supreme moral strength.

"Became confused," "became frightened"... Frightened of what? His own grenade? For a trained soldier to be frightened of it is the very same as, let's assume, a tractor operator to be frightened of his tractor. There in combat will "became confused" or "became frightened" really be a justification and will it really be taken by someone into account? No. Never.

To cover a subordinate with one's own body is of course valor and we give their due to the officers who performed such an exploit and set the example of courage and allegiance to troop comradeship. But with all this we must not forget that a commander's duty and valor lie above all in teaching a soldier the ability to handle the weapon and combat equipment expertly; only this excludes circumstances giving rise to what we call a ChP.

6904

CSO: 1801/312

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

PVO GENERALS ON AIR DEFENSE READINESS

Defensive Capabilities Praised

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 8 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by Colonel General A. Smirnov, deputy commander-in-chief of PVO [air defense] forces: "On Guard of the Air Borders"]

[Text] Today the personnel of our Soviet armed forces and the workers of our country are solemnly observing Air Defense Forces Day.

The history of air defense forces is inseparably linked with the destiny of our motherland and with the heroic way of the Soviet armed forces.

While protecting the country's most important administrative, political and industrial centers, railway centers, lines of communications and troop groupings from air strikes, the personnel of the air defense forces have shown unparalleled courage, heroism and high combat skill. Air defense troops assisted through active combat operations in the achievement of victories in the battles of Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad, Kursk and other of the Red Army's most important operations and they contributed to the defeat of the Japanese Kwantung army.

During the postwar period the Soviet Union has consistently conducted and conducts a policy of peace. It responds to the interests of all people, provides full range for friendship and cooperation between them, and serves the cause of socialist progress on the entire planet. However, aggressive imperialistic forces are openly opposing the realization of our country's peaceful proposals and they are intensifying the arms race. The aggressiveness of imperialism, and first of all American, has grown.

Having declared a "crusade" against communism, social revolutions and social progress, the imperial ambitions of the ruling circles in the United States have sharply intensified with the advent to power of the Reagan administration. The leaders of the United States with the obstinacy of maniacs are conducting a course towards achieving military superiority over the Soviet Union.

While consistently conducting a policy of peace, the CPSU shows a constant concern for the Soviet armed forces. At the special February Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee it was emphasized that in the future too we'll be concerned with strengthening the defensive capability of our country so that we may have sufficient means with the aid of which it's possible to cool the hot heads of the militant imperialists.

The history of the last decades is clearly indicative of the fact that localized wars were unleashed by the imperialists, as a rule, by inflicting massive air strikes.

In their plans for preparing for nuclear war, the military specialists of the United States and the NATO countries are considering air space as an arena for decisive strategic operations, engagements and combat operations. Therefore, the continuous and constant improvement of the air defense of the Soviet state and the combat resources of the PVO forces is an objective necessity.

The PVO forces will have to resolve complex tasks with the rapid growth and further improvement of the means for an air attack. The air defense missile troops, who possess great firepower, are reliably defending the air borders of our motherland. Their armament consists of various types of air defense missile systems with high resistance to countermeasures and effectiveness in hitting airborne targets in the broad range of altitudes and speeds of their flight.

Fighter aviation, which is intended for destroying the forces and facilities of an air attack mainly at distant approaches to objectives being shielded, is the most maneuverable branch of the PVO forces. Its armament includes first-class supersonic all-weather fighter interceptors with powerful missile armament and they are capable of intercepting and destroying airborne targets in a broad range of altitudes under any weather conditions and at any time of day or night.

Radiotechnical troops play an important role in air defense. They're intended for conducting continuous radar reconnaissance of the enemy's air attack forces and providing for the combat operations of air defense missile troops and fighter aviation. Radiotechnical troops are equipped with modern radar sets that make it possible to detect any means of air attack at long ranges round-the-clock (irrespective of weather conditions and the enemy's radioelectronic countermeasures) and to fix their precise coordinates at all altitudes.

More and more improved models of weapons and combat equipment are being received in the armament of the PVO forces. Automatic control systems (ASU) and high-speed communications equipment are being widely used. This provides commanders and headquarters the opportunity in maximum compressed time limits and most effectively to accept optimum variants of a decision for combat and to more fully utilize the combat means of air defense.

But the availability of equipment by itself still doesn't determine the entire might of the forces. The high moral substance and consciousness of personnel, their patriotism and outstanding combat training were and remain our advantage. Many PVO troops have been awarded USSR orders and medals for their services in assimilating equipment, training and upbringing of subordinates and irreproachably carrying out combat training missions.

The Moscow PVO District was awarded the Order of Lenin for its great contribution to the cause of strengthening the defensive might of the Soviet state.

The successes of a number of our units in combat and political training, in assimilating combat equipment and maintaining high combat readiness were noted by the USSR minister of defense with a pennant "for courage and military valor." Many PVO troops go through preliminary training in DOSAAF schools. Young people are trained especially well at the Kharkov model radiotechnical school. The school was awarded the challenge prize Red Banner of the PVO forces for the best training of RTV [radiotechnical troops] specialists.

In 1982 by decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Colonel I. Ye. Zhukov, an inspector pilot of the PVO forces and an alumnus of the Vladimir DOSAAF aeroclub, was awarded the rank of Hero of the Soviet Union for showing courage and heroism while carrying out a flying mission, and in 1984 Lieutenant Colonel V. V. Ivlev, an inspector pilot of the PVO forces and a DOSAAF alumnus as well, was awarded the Order of Lenin.

Personnel of the PVO forces are proud of the fact that from their ranks have gone USSR pilot cosmonauts Andriyan Grigor'yevich Nikolayev, Valeriy Fedorovich Bykovskiy, Vladimir Mikhaylovich Komarov, Boris Valentinovich Volynov, Vitaliy Mikhaylovich Zholobov, Petr Il'ich Klimuk and others.

The PVO forces are forces on constant combat readiness. In peacetime they're on the forward edge of defense of the motherland's sacred borders. The fulfillment of a task of state importance--performing round-the-clock combat duty--is entrusted to them. At any moment PVO forces must be prepared to repel the surprise strike of a strong, technically equipped, and crafty enemy and to defeat him completely.

Numerous examples, including the destruction of the American U-2 spy plane on 1 May 1960 and the American RB-47 reconnaissance aircraft which intruded into the Arctic sky on 1 July 1960, and the suppression of a reconnaissance flight of an aircraft over the USSR's Far East territories in September, 1983, are indicative of the high level of this readiness.

Lovers of military adventures know that the PVO forces are a formidable combat force. The latest missile systems included in the armament of the PVO forces are capable of destroying any modern means of a probable enemy's air strike.

In a nuclear missile war, if the imperialists unleash it, air engagements will be distinguished by an enormous spatial scope, target decisiveness, high transience and exceptionally great tension for the PVO forces. Today the importance of a deep understanding of weaponry and combat equipment, knowing how

to use them skillfully, strong ideological and political training, the deep conviction of personnel in the righteousness of the party's cause, and the ability to endure enormous moral and physical loads and to maintain one's will for decisive destruction of an enemy under any conditions has increased as never before.

Socialist competition, which was developed in the armed forces during the 1984 training year under the motto "be on the alert and on constant readiness to defend the achievements of socialism," was subordinated towards resolving these tasks. The military collective of the PVO guards air defense missile Smolensk Red Banner and Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov and Bogdan Khmel'nitskiy regiment, where Guards Colonel Y. Nechayev serves as commander, took the lead in it in the PVO forces.

The initiative of the pioneers was widely taken up in the forces and every day brings information about new achievements in the struggle for meeting their commitments.

Day and night, at any time of year and in the unified military family of Soviet armed forces, the air defense soldiers stand on guard of the borders of our socialist motherland. They're always on the alert and always prepared to carry out their honorable duty in the defense of the motherland.

Moscow Air Defense District Highlighted

Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by Colonel General of Aviation Anatoliy Ustinovich Konstantinov, Hero of the Soviet Union and commander-in-chief of forces of the Order of Lenin Moscow PVO [air defense] Military District: "Always on the Alert"]

[Text] The present holiday--Air Defense Forces Day--is passing amidst enormous political enthusiasm when the Soviet people are achieving new successes in all sectors of communist construction and are putting into practice the tasks put forward by the 26th CPSU Congress and the December, 1983 and February, 1984 Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee.

The thoughts of all the district's soldiers are directed at improving combat and political readiness and the inviolability of the air borders of Moscow--hero city and capital of our motherland. They distinctly understand the necessity of tirelessly improving the combat skill and always being on the alert, especially under conditions when the international situation has become sharply aggravated through the fault of the most aggressive forces of American imperialism.

The units and subunits [podrazdeleniye] of the Moscow Air Defense District have at their disposal powerful, modern air defense missile systems with high destruction accuracy, all-weather supersonic fighter interceptors, perfect radar equipment capable of detecting a probable enemy's means of air attack at great distances and in a full range of altitudes. Automatic control systems and computer equipment have received the broadest application. But, of course, the extent of technically equipping the forces is only one facet of combat might.

The outstanding soldiers who possess high moral, political and psychological qualities, who are infinitely devoted to the party, the government and the people, and who are able to skillfully use the formidable weapons were and remain the main invincible strength.

The birth of the air defense forces and their growth are inseparably linked with the great October socialist revolution and the name of Vladimir Il'ich Lenin. Having shot down an aircraft of the White Guards in the area of Krasnoye Selo in the environs of Petrograd on 30 October 1917, the "steel antiaircraft division," which was the first to open the combat tally of the air space defenders, was created by the workers of the Putilov (now Kirov) plant in accordance with his personal instructions.

During the years of the civil war, PVO soldiers added quite a number of pages to the annals of the defenders of the Soviet republic. The second battery of the Putilov antiaircraft division especially distinguished itself in combat. At the termination of combat on the civil war fronts this battery was reorganized into a separate air defense artillery division, and then into an air defense artillery regiment. In the summer of 1939 it arrived in Moscow and rose to the defense of its air space. During the years of the Great Patriotic War, the soldiers of this famous unit added quite a number of vivid pages which are entered forever in the combat annals of the air defense forces. And today the guards air defense missile Putilov-Kirov Order of Lenin PVO regiment is standing on guard of the capital's skies.

In 1940 the Moscow PVO zone was created. First-rate fighters for that time, antiaircraft guns and machine gun installations, equipment for detecting an airborne enemy, as well as barrage balloons and searchlights were included in its armament.

From the first days of the Great Patriotic War the PVO soldiers protected our capital with a reliable shield from air strikes. The air defense units which protected Moscow during the period of massed enemy air raids numbered 602 combat aircraft, 1,044 small and medium caliber antiaircraft guns, 350 quadruple machine gun installations and a great deal of other military equipment. During the Second World War, not a single capital of the capitalist states had such a powerful air defense.

During the war years when the raids of enemy aviation on Moscow were being repulsed, the PVO soldiers destroyed more than 1,300 fascist aircraft and a large quantity of other military equipment and manpower of the enemy. The fighter pilots demonstrated instances of courage and heroism in battles for the capital. It was precisely here that many aviation regiments were the first to be awarded the high honor of bearing the name of guards regiments, and 22 pilots who fought in the skies of Moscow were awarded the high rank of Hero of the Soviet Union. They were well matched and the artillerymen, antiaircraft personnel and all PVO troops joined battle with the hated enemy.

Constant readiness to defend the motherland to the last breath and to the last drop of blood, a filial devotion to the socialist motherland, loyalty to inter-

national duty, resoluteness and boldness, courage and steadfastness---today's defenders of the capital's air borders inherited and are increasing these outstanding qualities of the frontline heroes. Our soldiers are reliably providing through their daily selfless military labor for the successful solution of tasks which face the Moscow Air Defense District. The subunits are setting brilliant examples of discipline, are carrying out combat training gunnery with high evaluations and are performing their combat duty in a vigilant manner.

The soldier missiliers of the outstanding guards unit and the pioneers of socialist competition in the district's forces during the current training year, and which is commanded by Guards Lieutenant Colonel N. Pomazuyev, constantly demonstrate strong ideological training, outstanding technical training and solid skills in handling the formidable equipment under the complex conditions of modern combat. In accordance with last year's results, the regiment was awarded the challenge Red Banner of the CPSU MGK [Moscow city committee] and the ispolkom of the Mossovet [Moscow city soviet of workers' deputies]. Faithful to combat traditions, the fighter pilots of the leading squadron where officer A. Mel'nikov serves are intercepting all training targets at distant approaches to the objectives being protected.

Personnel of the radio-technical regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel I. Kostyunin are providing the missiliers and pilots with timely and accurate radar data on the air situation. For several years in succession this collective has been awarded the challenge Red Banner of the CPSU MGK and the Mossovet.

Everywhere communists are taking the lead in the most difficult, complex and responsible sections. It is for them to put into practice the policy of the party and the government---this means tirelessly, day after day strengthening the combat might of the military collectives, rallying personnel even more closely around the communist party, and bringing up people in the spirit of Marxist-Leninist ideas and utter devotion to the motherland.

The services of the Moscow city and oblast party organizations are considerable in all our successes. The district's soldiers are constantly aware of their concern and attention. The closest contacts between the capital's enterprises and organizations and the military units have existed for many years. A long-standing friendship joins the soldiers with collectives of the plants imeni Vladimir Il'ich, "Krasnyy Proletariy" and "Dinamo."

All personnel of the forces deeply welcomed the patriotic initiative of the Moscow labor collectives---on 21 April to hold a communist working Saturday dedicated to the 114th anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birthday. On the day of the working Saturday the district's soldiers will also get up for their own labor and military watch.

The PVO district's personnel are celebrating their own holiday with new successes in combat training and service; like all the Soviet people, they are prepared to appropriately observe the approaching 40th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory in the Great Patriotic War.

While recognizing the highest responsibility entrusted to us, the soldiers of the capital's air defense are always on the alert and in constant readiness to give a shattering rebuff to any airborne aggressor.

Air Defense History Outlined

Moscow SEL'SKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Apr 84 p 3

[Article by Colonel General Semen Fedorovich Romanov, Hero of the Soviet Union and chief of the air defense forces main staff: "On Guard of the Air Borders"]

[Text] Today the Soviet people and their armed forces are observing a national holiday--Air Defense Forces Day which was established as a token of the great contribution of the PVO [air defense] forces in victory over fascism during the Great Patriotic War and of their fulfillment of important tasks in providing for the safety of our motherland's air borders during peacetime.

The celebration of Air Defense Forces Day is taking place in a situation when the Soviet people are confidently fulfilling the creative plans of communist construction, are selflessly working on putting into practice the historical decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the December, 1983 and February, 1984 Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee, and are successfully meeting the quotas of the 11th Five-Year Plan.

The air defense troops, like all the armed forces personnel, are persistently and with all their strength struggling for further increasing the level of combat and political training and improving their military skill, and for maintaining high vigilance and combat readiness. In the current complicated and dangerous international situation which was aggravated through the fault of the United States and its NATO allies, the PVO forces are reliably protecting the air borders of our motherland.

The conception and development of the air defense forces are inseparably linked with the name of Vladimir Il'ich Lenin. In a short period of time they grew from the "steel antiaircraft division," which was created on the instructions of the leader of the revolution, into a formidable combat force that played an important role in the over-all system of armed defense of the young Soviet republic. PVO subunits [podrazdeleniye] successfully repulsed the raids of enemy aviation on Petrograd, Moscow, Tula, Baku and other important centers of the country.

The antiaircraft personnel of this division's second air defense battery especially distinguished themselves. The battery participated in combat in the area of Pskov and on the northern front, and was presented a high award--the distinguished revolutionary Red Banner of the VTsIK [All-Russian Central Executive Committee]--for combat services. An air defense artillery regiment, the soldiers of which shot down 38 fascist aircraft during the years of the Great Patriotic War while protecting the skies of Moscow, became the next successor of the first PVO subunit. Now the guards air defense missile Putilov-Kirov Order of Lenin PVO regiment is in a combat status and is a permanent participant in the festive military parades on Red Square in Moscow.

Thanks to the constant concern of the communist party and the Soviet government, the PVO forces have constantly improved. They are outfitted with modern combat equipment and new units [chast'] and units [soyedineniye] have been formed. PVO corps were created for the air defense of the most important administrative, political and administrative centers--Moscow, Leningrad and Baku--of the country, and PVO divisions and brigades were created for the defense of other objectives. By the beginning of the Great Patriotic War the Soviet Union's air defense system suited the level of development of the means for air attack at that time.

During the years of the Great Patriotic War, the air defense forces made a notable contribution to the cause of crushing the fascist aggressors. In a stubborn struggle with the Luftwaffe, they foiled the plans of the Hitlerist command headquarters to destroy our motherland's capital Moscow with mass air strikes.

The heroic defenders of the Moscow skies destroyed 1,305 enemy aircraft.

The PVO troops selflessly defended besieged Leningrad and the Lake Ladoga "road of life", which connected the city with Bol'shaya Zemlya, from the air-borne enemy. During the years of the war here, 1,561 enemy aircraft were destroyed in the air and on the ground.

In the battles of Stalingrad and Kursk and in other strategic operations of the Soviet armed forces, the PVO forces reliably provided cover for the groups of forces and lines of communications and, when the situation demanded, they successfully conducted combat operations with the enemy's tanks and infantry. The PVO forces also performed cover for important objectives in the liberated territory of Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Austria.

In all during the years of the Great Patriotic War, the combat tally of the PVO forces was more than 7,300 destroyed aircraft, more than 1,000 tanks, more than 1,500 guns and mortars and a great deal of other combat equipment and manpower of the enemy. More than 80,000 PVO soldiers were awarded orders and medals for their combat deeds, 92 of them were awarded the rank of Hero of the Soviet Union, and this rank was conferred twice to pilot A. Karpov. Twenty-nine units [soyedineniye] and units [chast'] received the rank of guards, 11 received honorary designations, and 34 hero soldiers are entered forever in the rolls of the military units.

The courage and heroism of the older generation of PVO troops are inscribed with gold letters in the history of the Soviet armed forces. The combat experience of the last war is indeed invaluable. Today in peacetime those who are performing the task of protecting the air borders of our motherland are turning to it.

The modern air defense forces are qualitatively new forces equipped with powerful and improved weapons. They encompass various branches of service, including air defense missile, fighter aviation and radio-technical troops.

The air defense missile troops possess great firepower. Included in their armament are air defense missile systems of various types that provide reliable destruction of modern and future means of air attack in a broad range of altitudes and speeds of their flight and at a great distance from the objectives being covered, irrespective of weather conditions and the time of day or night.

PVO fighter aviation is equipped with modern aviation intercept systems. Supersonic missile-carrying fighter interceptors are capable of destroying aircraft in all ranges of their combat application.

The radio-technical troops have at their disposal the latest radar systems that provide for timely detection of an airborne enemy and for activation of the air defense missile troops and fighter aviation. Automatic control systems, radioelectronic equipment and high-speed communications equipment, which considerably raise the combat application effectiveness of the PVO forces, are widely in the PVO forces.

The formidable weapons of the PVO forces are in the reliable and skillful hands of the ideologically hardened and well trained soldiers who are infinitely devoted to the communist party and the socialist motherland.

The PVO forces are forces of constant combat readiness. In peacetime they fulfill a task of national importance--they perform combat duty for protecting the air borders of our motherland--placed on the PVO forces by the USSR statute "on the national borders of the USSR."

The vigilance of performing combat duty is one of the most important conditions of the inviolability of our air borders. The air border of the Soviet Union stretched for tens of thousands of kilometers. And for the entire length of it--from the very cold ice of the Arctic to the scorching sands of the Karakum and from the Baltic to the Pacific Ocean--day and night and in any weather it is under the unremitting observation of the air defense troops.

Socialist competition is directed at further increasing combat readiness and vigilance. It is now being conducted in the PVO forces under the motto: "be on the alert and on constant readiness to defend the achievements of socialism."

During peacetime many PVO troops are noted with state awards for heroism and selflessness and for successes in combat and political training, and pilot Colonel I. Zhukov was awarded the high rank of Hero of the Soviet Union.

The troops of the PVO forces in a unified combat formation with the PVO troops of the fraternal armies of the socialist commonwealth countries are vigilantly guarding the achievements of socialism. Infinitely devoted to the communist party and the Soviet people, they are persistently increasing vigilance and combat readiness, and they are reliably protecting the air borders of our motherland.

Discipline, Training Emphasized

Moscow SOVETSKIY VOIN in Russian No 7, Apr 84 pp 4-5

[Article by Lieutenant General of Aviation Vadim Alekseyevich Ponomarev, member of the military council and chief of the political directorate of the Order of Lenin Moscow PVO District: "The Skies of the Motherland are Entrusted to Us"]

[Text] It's spring. There's a fathomless blue sky over our motherland and over its capital. Today it's clear and cloudless, symbolizing peace, confidence in tomorrow and in the happy future of our children. And the PVO [air defense] forces are performing their honorable service so that nobody dares to intrude into the air space of the mother country and to hinder the creative labor of the Soviet people. In peacetime too they're fulfilling a combat task and they're performing a round-the-clock military watch at any time of the year, like this April spring time. The troops of the Moscow PVO District are especially proud that the air defense of our motherland's capital the hero city of Moscow was entrusted to them.

The service of those defending the sky isn't easy and it requires exceptional vigilance, self-control and persistence, high military skill, courage and steadfastness, and constant readiness to give a crushing rebuff to any aggressor. Of course, they aren't born with qualities of this kind. They are formed in our army which was called the school of self-control and discipline and the school of life at the 26th CPSU Congress. This school has glorious revolutionary traditions which, while studying, keeping up and increasing, the soldiers are fulfilling V. I. Lenin's legacy with honor.

The creation of the PVO forces is inseparably linked with the name of V. I. Lenin. Already during the first days after the victory of the Great October Revolution, Vladimir Il'ich, while heading the defense of Petrograd--the cradle of the revolution, directly led the creation of a strong defense of the city from the ground and air enemy. On the night of 29 October (10 November) 1917, he visited the Putilov plant and, having urged them to accelerate the building of an armored train with anti-aircraft guns, he talked with the workers. In the morning this armored train left for the front where the first air defense fighters of the republic of the soviets along with detachments of the Red Guard and the revolutionary sailors were participating in the crushing defeat of General Krasnov's Cossack corps near Gatchina.

Having subsequently received the name "Putilov steel artillery division", the Putilov workers soon built an entire "motorized armored artillery unit [soyedineniye]." One of its subunits [podrazdeleniye]--the 2nd detached anti-aircraft railway battery--was awarded the distinguished revolutionary Red Banner of the RSFSR VTsIK [All-Russian Central Executive Committee] for fearlessness and heroism shown by personnel in battles with the interventionists during the fall of 1919.

The leading unit [chast'] of our district--the guards air defense missile Putilov-Kirov Order of Lenin PVO regiment--traces its genealogy from this battery.

And the tradition is alive up to the present time to send the best workers from the "Kirov plant" industrial association to the famous unit for service.

From the first days of the creation of the Red Army the formation of aviation detachments also began simultaneously with the creation of air defense subunits. Aviation schools and courses were opened in Moscow and other cities. By 1922 the Moscow Aviation School of the Workers' and Peasants' Navy alone had trained 233 military pilots and nearly 200 of them were communists.

While protecting the revolution in battles in the environs of Pskov and Narva in March, 1918, the air defense fighters opened their own combat tally: anti-aircraft personnel shot down 2 enemy aircraft.

The PVO units and subunits went through a severe test at the civil war fronts. While considering the accumulated experience, after it was over a great deal of attention was devoted to matters of organizing and arming air defense and aviation subunits. The party reinforced the ranks of the PVO troops with the best communists.

The storm clouds of the Second World War thickened over the world. The pilots and air defense personnel of the units of the Moscow PVO District fought valiantly against the fascists in Spain. Pilots A. Serov and I. Lakeyev had already then become Heroes of the Soviet Union. The commander of an air defense battery Lieutenant M. Botin and many others were presented with a high award.

At the request of the government of the Mongolian People's Republic, Soviet pilots, including PVO pilots also, assisted the Mongolian comrades in upholding their independence from the encroachment of the Japanese militarists. But the main and most severe tests were still ahead.

The Great Patriotic War began. The armadas of the fascist vultures intruded into the air space of our motherland and they were dying to get to its heart--the city of Moscow. On 22 July 1941 the first attempt at a mass raid was launched on the capital. During the evening the VNOS [air warning] posts from the Roslavl-Smolensk line reported on the movement of a large group of aircraft. Nearly 220 bombers were headed towards Moscow.

The fascist aircraft attempted to penetrate to the center of the city in groups and one at a time at various altitudes and from different directions.

The fighter aviation regiments ascended for the interception. The pilots succeeded in breaking up the enemy's combat formation. Captain K. Titenkov was one of the first to ascend into the skies. Within several minutes he had shot down the flag bomber which was being flown by an experienced fascist pilot--a colonel who had been decorated with two Iron Crosses.

Air defense personnel, searchlight personnel and barrage balloon personnel operated in a well-organized manner in this battle. A dense wall of fire confronted the enemy aircraft and through which only individual aircraft of the enemy could penetrate. The troops of all branches of the capital's PVO

forces successfully repulsed the air raids of the enemy. They also operated skillfully in the fight with the enemy's ground forces. In the fall of 1941 the troops of Lieutenant G. Volnyanskiy's firing platoon of the 6th antiaircraft battery displayed courage and heroism in the battles for Tula and on the approaches to Moscow. A large group of tanks was proceeding towards the platoon's positions. The air defense personnel met them with direct laying fire and immediately destroyed five tanks. A hot battle set in. Sergeant T. Nikitenko's crew alone destroyed eight enemy tanks in a day. But the ranks of the heroes grew thin. Lieutenant G. Volnyanskiy got up to the gun. While bleeding profusely, the courageous officer destroyed one more tank and he too was killed. Having lost 14 tanks, the fascists never could penetrate the defense.

During the war years Moscow's air defense was an unsurpassed example of defending a large center from an air attack. The central committee of our party and the Soviet government, the state defense committee and the supreme general headquarters were directly involved in it.

During the war period the Moscow PVO forces shot down 1,305 fascist German aircraft. Along with fulfilling their basic task they took an active part in the crushing defeat of the Hitlerist ground forces and destroyed 450 tanks, nearly 5,000 motor vehicles and 250 artillery batteries and antiaircraft machine-gun points, and they diverted and disabled up to 50,000 soldiers and officers of the enemy.

Many soldiers were awarded the rank of Hero of the Soviet Union for courage and bravery displayed in battles for the defense of Moscow. Among them are the names of officers K. Titenkov, V. Talalikhin and B. Kovzan, the names of whom became a symbol of military valor and heroism.

One would think the crushing defeat of fascist Germany for years to come would discourage the imperialists from fighting against us, however, the aggressive circles of the United States and NATO don't wish to consider the lessons of history. Today the entire world has become a witness to their continuation of an inhuman policy. The military and political situation has become acutely strained as a result of this. This is why we must constantly be on the alert.

The communist party and the Soviet government are taking all necessary measures in order to provide for the safety of the motherland. While directing the energies of the people towards achieving still new successes in communist construction, at the same time the party is tirelessly concerned about strengthening the combat might of the Soviet armed forces, including the PVO forces, and outfitting them with the most modern, first-rate equipment and weaponry. The combat traditions of the air defense troops are continuing in the everyday military life of the capital's defenders.

The feats of the frontline soldiers and their combat experience are the invaluable property of today's defenders of the capital's skies. They are persistently perfecting their combat skill and vigilantly keeping their combat watch. While deeply realizing the task--defense of the skies of their beloved capital--placed upon them, the district's soldiers, sergeants, warrant officers and officers are honestly and selflessly performing their military and patriotic duty.

Creative study of the Leninist ideological and theoretical legacy and the materials of the 26th CPSU Congress and the June and December, 1983 Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee forms the basis for all activities of commanders, political workers, and party and Komsomol organizations of units and subunits of the district for the communist upbringing of soldiers. Specific tasks were set for all Soviet people for further improvement of Soviet society in the stage of developing socialism and reference points were determined in the struggle for communism in the decisions of the special February, 1984 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and in the speeches of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Comrade K. U. Chernenko.

While unanimously approving the domestic and foreign policy of the communist party, the soldiers of our PVO district are doing everything necessary in order to put into practice the priority instructions of the CPSU Central Committee--to maintain vigilance and combat readiness at the highest level and to strengthen military discipline.

Competition under the motto "Be on the alert and on constant readiness to defend the achievements of socialism!" is a powerful stimulus in the struggle for a high quality of combat and political training. Today the combat collectives, which officers N. Pomazuyev, A. Vyrvich and I. Kostyunin are commanding, are proceeding in the vanguard of the contenders. These outstanding collectives were awarded the challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Moscow city committee and the ispolkom of the Mossovet [Moscow city soviet of workers' deputies].

As a whole the troops of all branches of the forces are making a heavy contribution to combat readiness. The squadrons which are commanded by military pilots first class Lieutenant Colonel A. Shalgin and Major V. Khar'kov are operating in an outstanding manner in tactical flight exercises with combat gunnery. The outstanding air defense missile division which is commanded by Major S. Razygrayev is showing stably high results in combat and political training. According to the results of socialist competition, the missiliers won first place in the unit and are never content with what has been achieved, and they are persistently improving military training and strengthening discipline.

Such, I would say, is the main and over-all attitude of the Order of Lenin Moscow PVO district troops. It's impossible to be otherwise too--after all, the defense of our motherland's capital the hero city of Moscow is entrusted to us and for this we have at our disposal the most perfect weaponry and outstanding equipment. There are all-weather missile-carrying fighter interceptors, formidable air defense missile systems, modern radar detection systems, automatic control systems and accurate and reliable communications; in short, there is everything necessary for fulfilling the task--creation of an insurmountable air defense of the capital--that faces the district's forces. And while recognizing their personal responsibility for the safety of the motherland, missile personnel, pilots, radar personnel and troops of other specialties are performing combat duty in a vigilant manner and they are successfully meeting the socialist commitments that they made.

Communists are proceeding in the vanguard of all measures for improving air defense. The district's command headquarters, political organs and party organizations have done a great deal for practically implementing the requirement of the USSR minister of defense: "new equipment and a higher level of its assimilation." Many party collectives are successfully participating in the patriotic movement for all communists to be specialists of a higher classification. This work is being conducted with the most results where officers A. Serikov, N. Kuraksin and V. Bukatar' are serving. All communists side by side with them are first and second class specialists.

We're bound by a long-standing, firm friendship and we're constantly competing for the best party and labor collectives of the capital. An indissoluble bond exists between the military units and the enterprises of Moscow, of which are included the electromechanical plant imeni Vladimir Il'ich, the "Serp i molot" ["hammer and sickle"] and "Dinamo" plants, and the automotive plant imeni Leninist Komsomol. The friendship between the military and labor collectives promotes improvement of the ideological, political and moral upbringing of personnel and is a striking illustration of the unity of the people and the army, and in which the great strength of our system is contained.

One of the most important tasks of the district's commanders, political organs and party organizations is further strengthening military discipline. V. I. Lenin emphasized that we need combat readiness and discipline brought to the highest limits.

The Komsomol organizations are proving to be of great assistance to the command headquarters and political organs in successfully solving the matter of further strengthening discipline. While carrying out the Leninist legacies, they are constantly and persistently struggling for firm regulation order and discipline and the state of being well organized, they are bringing up personnel in a spirit of high consciousness and industriousness, and on this basis they are achieving successful duty performance and maintenance of constant combat readiness of the forces. The youth collectives, at the head of which stand Komsomol secretaries officers Ye. Grebnev, B. Sayenkov and V. Dvurechenskikh, are coming to meet the all-army conference of secretaries of primary Komsomol organizations with high indicators in training and organizing socialist competition.

The present international situation requires us to double and triple vigilance and combat readiness. As the saying goes, keep your powder dry.

The troops of the Moscow PVO District in the future too will tirelessly improve their combat skill so that under the conditions of increased war danger they may successfully carry out any order of the mother country and they may vigilantly stand on guard of the air borders of our motherland's capital--the hero city of Moscow.

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CSO: 1801/300

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

ANTI-AIRCRAFT AVOIDANCE TACTICS DISCUSSED

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 5, May 84 pp 26-27

[Article by Colonel A. Fyodorov, Military Pilot 1st Class: "Penetrating the Zone of Antiaircraft Fire"]

[Text]

THE INTRODUCTION of antiaircraft missile complexes which have sharply enhanced the effectiveness, range and altitude of fire at air targets has exercised a somewhat negative effect on the development of antiaircraft artillery. Thus, in the late 1950s several experts in other countries expressed the view that antiaircraft missiles could cope with all air defence problems and missions. That was why in some cases such complexes tended to monopolise the air defence system. According to foreign press reports, however, the experience of local wars showed that the forecasts about the imminent extinction of antiaircraft artillery were premature and ungrounded. Owing to the conditions that took shape in these wars antiaircraft artillery was the most widespread air defence means, which proved highly effective in dealing with conventional aircraft, helicopters and other low flying targets at close ranges. For instance, out of the 393 aircraft shot down at low altitudes in Vietnam in the period between January and July 1966, 374 were destroyed by antiaircraft artillery. Thus, military experts were confronted with the acute problem of how attacking aircraft should penetrate the zone of antiaircraft fire, if this was at all possible.

This question is not new. During the Second World War antiaircraft artillery comprised the main power of the air defence force in protecting the troops on the battlefronts and objectives in the rear from air attack. As an attack plane pilot during the Great Patriotic War (1941-45), I and my comrades had to fly

missions in the face of fierce opposition by antiaircraft artillery. To penetrate the zone of antiaircraft fire we tried to secure the element of surprise by hedgehopping, we decreased the depth of our combat formation, resorted to antiaircraft manoeuvres or assigned special aircraft to neutralise enemy antiaircraft fire.

We learnt from combat experience that the first antiaircraft artillery salvo fired at a range of from four to eight kilometres was the most dangerous one. Naturally, it was practically impossible to establish in all cases the moment the enemy would open fire, so we started to manoeuvre at a distance of three-five kilometres from the front line and continued to carry out manoeuvres while over enemy territory.

A vertical manoeuvre, even in limited scope, compelled the enemy to adjust his antiaircraft fire with respect to altitude. Enemy antiaircraft artillery crews needed from five to ten seconds to execute this operation. In addition, they made the adjustments after firing two or three salvos with the initial sight setting. To avoid the shell bursts the attack aircraft performed a turn in combination with a vertical manoeuvre

(descent or climb). Changes of 20-30 degrees in the course of every 10-20 seconds or circling prevented the enemy antiaircraft gun crews from conducting aimed fire. Simultaneous vertical and horizontal manoeuvring became known as snaking. Such manoeuvres inevitably altered the speed, too.

However, if the angles of the turns were small the enemy could estab-

lish the snaking course. In this case the enemy anti-aircraft artillery would conduct accompanying fire along this course. If the pilots made sharp turns, the amplitude of snaking was small. Therefore, the enemy anti-aircraft artillery did not require any major changes in the basic firing data. The pilots of attack aircraft adhered to an unwritten law: if a shell burst directly ahead of the plane, the pilot would not alter his course, because another shell would not burst in the same place.

Over enemy-held territory we never flew at heights of so many hundred metres. We always maintained, say, altitudes of 240, 360, 420 or so metres, because it was more difficult for the enemy to establish our height. Therefore, his anti-aircraft fire was not that accurate.

A combat formation extended in depth tended to increase the probability of hits. Normally, fire was calculated on the basis of the firing data for the leader, so that the delayed bursts should hit the wingmen. An extended line-abreast formation was less vulnerable. Therefore, groups would be formed of eight or nine planes in an order close to the line-abreast formation.

A tight combat formation is undesirable in an anti-aircraft fire zone, because a single shell may hit several aircraft. In addition, such a formation interfered with the manoeuvring of wingmen. Therefore, the lateral distance between aircraft was at least two to three wing spans. If several groups of planes attacked a single target they would be echeloned in height and abreast at intervals of 100-150 metres. They would approach the target from various directions with the execution of anti-aircraft fire manoeuvres. This was done to prevent the enemy from concentrating his fire on a single group.

To penetrate through the barrage of ground-based air defence means it was highly important to choose the right approach and return routes. Proceeding from intelligence on the location of enemy anti-aircraft artillery, the pilots would plot routes to avoid the danger zones. Changing their course several times to mislead the enemy warning system, the attack planes sought to surprise the enemy by a sudden approach from the rear, the front, from out of the sun or from the clouds.

At low altitudes the attack aircraft were harassed by small calibre anti-aircraft artillery and machine-gun fire which constituted the greatest hazard, because of these weapons' high horizontal and vertical manoeuvrability. To avoid this fire the planes executed a sharp simultaneous change of course, height and speed.

At the time circling was a most effective anti-aircraft fire manoeuvre. An uninterrupted shift of planes in the field of view of the gunlayer prevented the latter from making timely adjustments. A small diameter circle with a varying height was also effective.

Another well-known manoeuvre was the so-called "scissors." As soon as the pilots sighted enemy anti-aircraft artillery the leader would order the group to split, half of the planes making a sharp left turn and the other half a sharp right turn to resume their initial stations before the attack. In this case the ground-based anti-aircraft artillery experienced great difficulty in conducting aimed fire. After the attack the planes would withdraw from the target area, performing the snaking manoeuvre. To dampen the effect of flak before the attack the attack planes would sharply extend their intervals abreast to approach the target from different directions. Quite often the pilots would turn the enemy's anti-aircraft artillery positions to approach the target from the rear.

It should be mentioned that today the capabilities of anti-aircraft artillery have increased. The effective range and height are now greater, as is the firepower, accuracy and mobility of the anti-aircraft weapons. But aircraft have also improved. Since the Great Patriotic War the speed of aircraft has increased many times over. Low-level flying is now automatically controlled. Aircraft are now equipped with highly efficient means of target location and destruction. Aircraft armament has become more formidable. For instance, an air-to-surface missile will hit a target without the plane making the approach.

An analysis of the capabilities of aircraft and anti-aircraft means will show that they have improved considerably. However, though the rate of improvement has been more or less even, it is difficult to give preference to a definite weapon in combat. Why were the American los-

ses in aircraft from Vietnamese anti-aircraft artillery so high, as was mentioned in the beginning of the article? The fact was that the aircraft in question, as the Aviation Week wrote, had been designed in keeping with requirements of defence against surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles. That was why they were so vulnerable to anti-aircraft artillery fire. After suffering heavy losses in the beginning American pilots began to employ anti-aircraft artillery fire measures that had been forgotten after the Second World War. Thus, the most widespread techniques were turns of 15-20 degrees in pursuit of the master course every 15-20 seconds accompanied by vertical manoeuvring within a range of 120-150 metres, snaking in the beginning of a dive and during the withdrawal from an attack, and also rudder reversal within a range of 110 degrees while on the run-in for bombing from horizontal flight. Anti-aircraft fire manoeuvring was performed while the pilots searched for and identified targets.

In subsequent local wars it was possible to weaken the air defence system and, in particular, to lower the effect of anti-aircraft artillery fire through massive use of electronic countermeasures.

During the Anglo-Argentinian armed conflict in 1982 the Argentinian pilots, according to American specialists, effectively employed

the concealed target approach tactics in fighting British surface ships. Owing to an acute shortage of anti-ship guided missiles they employed conventional aircraft bombs and obsolescent rocket projectiles. This called for visual contact with targets. The Argentinian pilots approached the West Falkland Island from the west or south-west at extreme low height taking advantage of the accidents of the ground. As a rule, the attacks were executed from out of the setting sun at the end of the day. That was why the anti-aircraft artillery and anti-aircraft guided missile crews could not make effective use of their optical sights. Their fire was not accurate. Limited possibilities for manoeuvre owing to low altitude and bad weather conditions created considerable difficulties. The Argentinian Air Force exhibited courage and heroism. In most cases the pilots broke through the defence system of the British fleet.

The combat experience accumulated in the battles against fascism during the Great Patriotic War (1941-45) and also in local wars is an invaluable asset which is being widely used in the combat training of air force pilots today. Assimilation of this experience has enabled us creatively to develop tactics of air combat over the battlefield and to find new and effective ways for penetrating the enemy's air defence system.

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CSO: 1812/217

SPECIAL TROOPS

COL GEN GOLUSHKO DISCUSSES SANITARY RULES

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 5, May 84 pp 18-20

[Article by Colonel-General I. Golushko, chief of Logistical Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, D. Sc. (Military), Professor, the USSR State Prize Winner: "Logistical Support in Battle"]

[Text]

LOGISTICAL CONTINUITY

In the execution of my duties I frequently have occasion to visit the forces and attend tactical exercises. When observing concerted all-arms operations you also cannot help feeling pride and satisfaction with the logistical subunits' high training standard. In modern warfare no success is possible unless military units are adequately supplied with fuel, ammunition and food, their weapons and equipment are maintained, and the wounded are rendered medical aid. All these tasks require great efforts on the part of logistical subunits. Being characterised by resolute and dynamic actions and by abrupt changes in the situation, modern battle calls for a much greater quantity of supplies than, for instance, was the case during the Great Patriotic War (1941-45). Hence the increasingly important role of logistical continuity aimed at supplying each soldier in good time with everything he needs for fulfilling his combat mission.

Therefore, when taking a decision to engage the enemy, the commander must be well aware of the logistical subunits' readiness to carry out their missions. In other words, when furnishing logistical support he must know for sure that his personnel are well versed in the technique of modern warfare and are ready to operate in any situation, including emergencies. This is how logistical subunits operating in the immediate rear

must manifest their combat readiness, which is of no less importance than that of all-arms subunits.

It has already been mentioned that logistical support must be supplied uninterruptedly. Full responsibility for its delivery is borne by the appropriate subunit commander whose decisions and senior commander's instructions form the basis for organising logistical support. The commander organises logistical operations jointly with his deputy — the logistics chief and subordinate officers. During the battle they help the commander build up supplies, replenish ammunition, fuel and combat equipment, and give medical aid to and evacuate the wounded.

Therefore, the modern logistical arm must be as mobile and manoeuvrable as military subunits. In this sense it closely resembles — in terms of structure and supply status — all-arms subunits, which facilitates their cooperation and contributes to the most effective use of logistical support.

This demand applies in full measure to the logistical elements operating in the immediate rear, and especially to those assigned to the battalion. The latter's mission is to supply subunits with everything necessary to sustain daily life and high combat standards.

LIKE IN REAL BATTLE

In keeping with the vast scope of modern battle, the battalion logistical arm must deal with a great number of missions. But nowadays it can cope with all of them. Using cross-country vehicles, the battalion logistical subunits can negotiate any terrain to follow the battalion engaged in battle and to supply material support for it without delay.

...Recently, at a tactical exercise, I had occasion to observe the actions of a battalion logistical arm under Captain Kruglov. After receiving a clear-cut order from the logistics chief, Praporshchik Sedov, a support platoon leader, brought it to the personnel's notice and gave them all the necessary explanations concerning their actions in different situations that may arise. The platoon operated like clockwork. All its soldiers and sergeants showed diligence, high skill and sound knowledge. They also operated expertly in siting different supply points (ammunition, fuel, medical and food). This work was done at night in the shortest time possible.

The problems of supplying ammunition and fuel to the appropriate points and their delivery to the subunits in the field were given particu-

lar attention by Captain Kruglov and Praporschchik Sedov. Combat equipment was ordered to be refuelled by a combined method, which proved to be most expedient in the obtaining situation. According to this method, some of the vehicles were refuelled on the spot, while the rest arrived at the fuel supply point.

The platoon personnel exhibited a high field training standard when they had to deliver ammunition under "enemy" fire to the subunits which had temporarily assumed the defensive. To do this without being noticed by the "enemy," the supply platoon leader skilfully used accidents of the terrain and set smoke screens.

TO BE COMBAT READY

In combat conditions it is sometimes difficult to supply hot food to the men three times a day. Therefore, with the battalion CO's permission, the men may be given dry issues. However, during this exercise the men were served three hot meals daily thanks to the flawless functioning of the food supply point.

During the exercise the logistical personnel also worked out the technique of changing worn-out uniforms. The long-lasting exercise and unfavourable climatic conditions made it necessary to organise a special wash-up for the men in some sectors with the means available in the field.

To be in a state of high combat readiness, the servicemen must observe all sanitary and hygienic rules. This was well proved by the experience of the Great Patriotic War. The situation permitting, the men must bathe and change their underclothes at least once a week.

Another function of the logistical forces is to supply subunits with water. This applies not only to subunits operating in areas which lack water. The problem is aggravated by the possibility of epidemics and of contamination of the ambient air, terrain and water sources especially as a result of enemy employment of chemical agents and mass destruction weapons. The amount of water supplied for subunits in the field must be enough for their housekeeping, servicing of equipment, drinking purposes and for bathing and laundry service.

To provide high-quality water for the forces, certain measures are specified in the appropriate documents. Water found is first sterilised and then delivered to a water supply point where it is

stored and issued for consumption. Water for drinking and housekeeping is stored only at a dry water supply point which is usually located close to the battalion food supply point.

The point is supplied with water by transport detailed by the deputy unit logistic commander, and subunits in the field, by transport vehicles of the battalion logistical arm which simultaneously bring hot food to the forces.

In all wars over the centuries losses were sustained by both sides.

In modern conditions, when armies are saturated with weapons and combat equipment, it is especially important to organise medical support whose purpose is to preserve the personnel's high fighting efficiency and health and replenish their reserves. Medical support embraces such measures as rescue of the sick and wounded from the battlefield, furnishing of preliminary medical aid by medical officer's assistants, and removing them from the battlefield and preparing them for evacuation. Military personnel also take measures to safeguard the forces from epidemics.

First aid is usually given on the spot, where the men have been wounded or in nearby shelters. As a rule, this takes place in the form of self-aid. This is also included among the duties of medical instructors and medical orderlies and any personnel specially detailed for rescue, first aid and evacuation operations in mass destruction areas. Preliminary medical aid by medical officer's assistants is given at the battalion medical aid station.

Since most of the seriously wounded cannot be given medical treatment on the spot, they must be taken to medical aid stations. Therefore, commanders at all levels should be responsible for the rescue of wounded men from the battlefield. The wounded must be brought to the battalion medical aid station together with their hand arms and gas masks. If necessary, the battalion CO details additional manpower and equipment to evacuate the wounded and sick.

A SINGLE GOAL

Although the logistical support at the battalion level mainly consists of two kinds of support, material and medical, the immediate rear logistics includes many more operations. It embraces the following kinds of support: engineer and airfield maintenance and ground handling, veterinary, commercial and personal services, quartering and financial services. The higher the tactical link, the more varied its logistical activity. However, all lo-

gistical subunits, from battalion to highest level, are united by one single goal — to provide all soldiers with everything they need to win a victory over the enemy. Every soldier of the logistical forces, irrespective of the post he occupies, is facing this difficult and lofty task.

In coping with their tasks the logistical personnel do their best to make subunits self-contained so that they be independent in a combat situation when the delivery of material supplies is impossible. To this end the men are provided with special bags in which to keep ammunition, food rations and personal effects. Naturally, it is the commander's duty to regularly check the condition and content of these bags.

The rational use of material supplies is also of great importance. Much in this respect depends on the commander's decision to engage the enemy. Acting in unison with all-arms subunits and making a decision with the least possible expenditure of material supplies, the commander will thus contribute to the fulfilment of a tactical mission and to the saving of national property.

To cope with all his missions, the logistics commander must furnish uninterrupted logistical support by skillfully controlling his subunits.

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MILITARY HISTORY

DEFEAT OF COUNTERREVOLUTION IN SOVIET TURKESTAN REVIEWED

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 5, May 84 pp 53-54

[Article by Colonel B. Pavlov, Cand. Sc. (History): "Defeat of Counter-revolution in Soviet Turkestan"]

[Text]

The article deals with the struggle against counterrevolution in Soviet Central Asia in 1920-23.

In early 1920 the Red Army inflicted a decisive defeat on foreign interventionists and the White Guard troops. Long cut off by combat fronts from Soviet Russia Soviet Turkestan (today this territory is occupied by the Turkmen, Uzbek, Tajik and Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republics) resumed firm relations with it. Soviet power was strengthening and political and economic measures were being implemented in the context of fierce fighting. Basmachestvo — a counterrevolutionary armed movement of landowners, bais,* bourgeoisie and reactionary clergy — was the most vivid expression of this struggle. British imperialists provided basmaches** with money, armament and ammunition, while British intelligence controlled them directly. The reactionary circles of Turkey, Afghanistan and Iran also rendered them great assistance. Bas-

maches and their patrons trying to camouflage the class nature of their struggle, depicted it as "national liberation" which allegedly pursued the goals of "defending Islam." By terror, deception and intimidation they tried to draw the peasant masses into the basmach movement. Basmach detachments attacked the civilian population, plundered, killed Communists and Komsomol members, workers of Soviet establishments, city and rural activists.

The situation in the given area was characterised by a number of peculiarities. The number of workers of industrial enterprises at the forefront of the struggle for consolidating Soviet power was small. Ninety-five per cent of the population of Turkestan (the former semi-colonial territory of tsarist Russia) were engaged in agriculture, one fourth of it being nomads — cattle-breeders. Not more than four per cent of the indigenous population could read and write. The workers of Turkestan waged a hard struggle for Soviet power, many of them in the ranks of the Red Army. Thousands of poor peasants fought alongside them. But the majority of peasants, oppressed and intimidated, did not realise that their interests ran contrary to the interests

* Bai — rich landowner in Central Asia.

** Basmach — member of a counter-revolutionary robber band in Central Asia during the Civil War.

of landowners, bais and kulaks who mercilessly exploited them, robbed and kept them in misery and ignorance.

It was necessary to draw the rural workers in active political life, to explain to them the goals and tasks of Soviet power. Without this it was impossible to do away with the basmaches.

V. I. Lenin and the Party Central Committee constantly helped the Communists of Turkestan in their strenuous effort to strengthen Soviet power, restore the economic structure and fight counterrevolution. Lenin in late 1919 addressed a letter to the Communists of Turkestan in which he stressed the particular importance of correctly carrying out the Soviet nationalities policy in the East. "The attitude of the Soviet Workers' and Peasants' Republic to the weak and hitherto oppressed nations is of very practical significance for the whole of Asia and for all the colonies of the world, for thousands and millions of people.

"I earnestly urge you," wrote Lenin, "to devote the closest attention to this question, to exert every effort to set an effective example of comradely relations with the peoples of Turkestan."

Further on Lenin pointed out that the building of socialism in Turkestan would wholly depend on the activity and independent actions of the working Kazakhs, Kirghizes, Uzbeks, Tajiks and Turkmens. It was necessary first of all to get them involved in state administration on a broad basis.

Intensive work began on setting up Soviets, particularly in rural areas, where there were few of them. Groups consisting of Communists, non-Party activists — workers and peasants — were sent to villages. They did intensive propaganda work, united the rural poor and organised local organs of Soviet power. Local organisations of poor peasants called "Unions of Working Peasantry" were also organised. They brought together collective farm workers and peasants having

not enough arable land. The main goals of these organisations were political education of the working people and organisation of their joint actions in defence of their interests against landowners, bais and kulaks.

In May 1920, M. V. Frunze, Commander of the Turkestan Front, addressed the population of the Ferghana Valley with an appeal calling upon the working Moslems to support Soviet power. In the densely populated, fertile Ferghana Valley the domination of bais and kulaks was the main basis of the basmach movement. Despite the threats of basmaches over 11,000 Moslems joined the Red Army, and several dozens of cavalry units and detachments were activated of them. By 1921, large basmach formations were routed. Now basmaches found cover in mountains and difficult areas. They often went abroad, vacationed, replenished the stocks of weapons and ammunition lavishly provided by British agents and the reactionary circles of the neighbouring countries, and returned to Soviet territory.

Detachments formed from among the local population successfully fought the basmaches. As a rule, their commanders were local workers and peasants who knew well enough the peculiarities of combat in mountains. Many of those who distinguished themselves were awarded Orders. They included Kh. Tursunkulov, a fearless reconnaissance man of the 2nd Separate Cavalry Brigade decorated with the Order of the Red Banner. Tursunkulov turned out to be not only a courageous fighting man but also a remarkable worker. Subsequently, for valiant labour during the years of socialist construction in Uzbekistan he was thrice awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labour.

The local Soviets simultaneously took measures to improve condition for the working people. Cattle and seeds were given free of charge to families that suffered most of all from basmaches. For tilling the land

of peasants with draught animals, horses from Soviet establishments and military units were used.

Political workers of military units, Communists and members of Kom-somol of local organisations, activists from among the peasants carried out an active explanatory work among the rural workers. Meetings were constantly held and great attention was paid to individual work. Self-defence detachments were formed in kishlaks (villages in Central Asia). In garrisons literacy courses for adults were set up, the classes being conducted by the fighting men and commanders from the local population. They not only taught them reading, writing and arithmetics but also explained that Soviet power is the power of the working people, which was why the feudal lords, bais and reactionary clergy hated it so. They exposed in particular the lie intensely spread by counterrevolutionary agents that Soviet power allegedly banned religion, destroyed mosques, etc.

It should be noted that sometimes the enemies who distorted the policy of Soviet power by provoking dissatisfaction among the population penetrated into the local organs of power, various establishments and even Party organisations.

In 1921, preparations for a land irrigation reform were acquiring broad dimensions. For this purpose congresses of peasants were held in various districts of Turkestan. At these congresses it was explained to the peasants how the reform would be carried out and land and

water distributed. Only those who cultivated the land were awarded the right to have it. Sale and purchase of land were prohibited. The land expropriated from landlords, bais and kulaks was distributed among metayers, agricultural workers and landless and poor peasants. Part of the land was allotted for setting up state and collective farms. The whole of the working population had equal rights in using land and water.

Delegates to the congresses also had an opportunity to familiarise themselves on a broader scale with the goals and tasks of Soviet power. Hired worker S. Umbetbayev said at one of these congresses: "I came across the programme of Communists and realised that this Party is a holy one. We were sumptuous victuals for colonisers, kulaks and our wealthy bais. The Communists are correct telling us: 'You are the majority and only you can decide your own destiny.'"

The reform was carried into life in 1921-22. It aroused fierce resistance from bais and kulaks. Basmaches massacred whole families of poor peasants who tilled the land given by Soviet power. Of course there were some peasants who were afraid to take the land. Nevertheless, the peasants gradually saw for themselves that a peaceful and happy life could be built only by drawing on Soviet power and by supporting it in every way, even with arms in hand. Of great significance was the fact that water and land were also given to refugees returning from

abroad, where they escaped during the armed uprising against tsarism in 1916. Nomads who opted for a sedentary way of life were also provided with land.

Intensive work to train national cadres and to develop culture in town and countryside was carried out simultaneously. The number of courses and schools of Party and Soviet workers from among the local population already existing were increased and some new ones set up. Several pedagogical institutions and dozens of teacher-training courses were organised. In 1920 Turkestan State University with branches in several towns was founded in Tashkent. The number of libraries, reading-rooms and clubs grew quickly. Work to form a health security system began. The Government of the Soviet Republic rendered substantial material and moral help to the population of Turkestan. It allotted funds, sent machinery, foodstuffs and seeds, and transferred textile works, repair shops, etc. from central districts of the country. The Soviet state frontier was shut tight to enemies. All these measures yielded fruit. By 1924 basmach bands were liquidated on the whole.

The heroic struggle and sacrifices made by the peoples of Central Asia did not go for naught. Today the Soviet Republics of Central Asia are a thriving land with a highly developed industry, farming and culture. Such is the remarkable result of the Leninist nationalities policy of the Communist Party in action.

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